

Water Efficiency in Residential Homes in San Luis Obispo County



Map of where data came from in SLO County



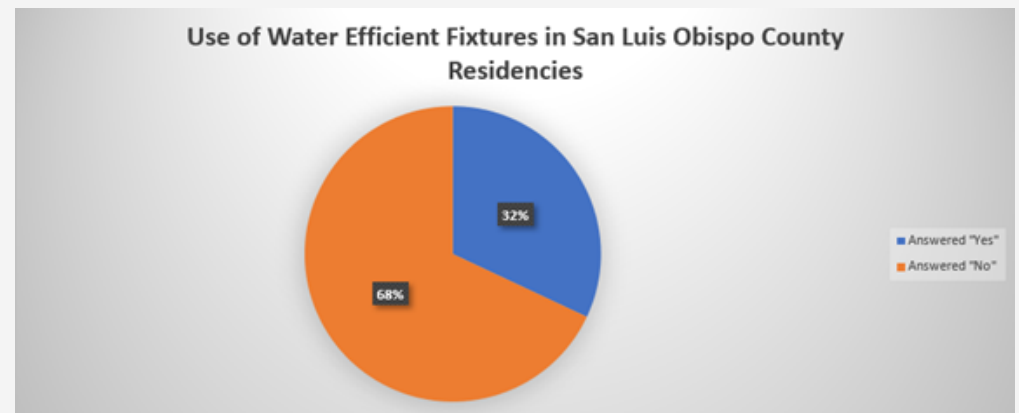
Abstract

Sustainable building has reshaped the construction industry and has led to new innovations that have benefitted the human race. Water efficiency in buildings has become increasingly important to the U.S. Green Building Counsel (USBGC) for buildings to obtain a LEED certification. This has led the construction industry to innovate new technologies that help conserve one of if not the most important resource on Earth, water. The construction industry has been moving more towards water efficient plumbing fixtures such as dual flush toilets, low flow showerheads and sinks along with energy star appliances. These new innovations have led to a decrease in residential homes average water use and have helped homeowners save money on their water and sewage utility bills. However, the implementation of water efficient fixtures in residential homes still has a lot of room to grow which can be seen right here in San Luis Obispo County.

Keywords: Sustainable Building, Water Efficiency, USBGC, LEED Certification, Plumbing Fixtures



Use of Water Efficient Fixtures in San Luis Obispo County		
City	Yes	No
Paso Robles	2	6
Templeton	0	2
Morro Bay	1	4
Cayucos	2	1
Los Osos	1	2
San Luis Obispo	3	6
Santa Margarita	0	1
Avila Beach	1	1
Pismo Beach	3	4
Grover Beach	1	2
Arroyo Grande	2	5
Total	16	34



Methodology

Interviewed based by conducting surveys to obtain quantitative data.

Objects/Goals

1. Extend the overall knowledge of the current use of water efficient practices in households across San Luis Obispo County.
2. Analyze the benefits of switching out old plumbing fixtures and appliances with new ones that are water efficient.
3. Provide the County of San Luis Obispo with an accurate percentage of households across the county that use water efficient fixtures.

Results/New Knowledge

After conducting 50 surveys across the county of San Luis Obispo only 32% of San Luis Obispo County residents use water efficient fixtures in their homes.

Data Analysis/Conclusion

If most residents in San Luis Obispo County were to convert from old plumbing fixtures to new water efficient plumbing fixtures the county would be able to decrease its residential indoor water usage by 17%. The construction industry will continue to innovate new sustainable building techniques and the government will continue to try and push residents towards these new innovations but ultimately it comes down to the people to create change and with the available resources, the power is in their hands to create a more sustainable environment for future generations to come.