

# Innovations Program

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is committed to diversifying our water supply portfolio through the development of local water supplies. Our Conservation, Recycled Water, Groundwater, and Onsite Water Reuse Programs have already had significant success in increasing our local water supply reliability, making us less vulnerable to disrupted service from drought and natural disasters. Our newest addition to this list of pioneering programs, the Innovations Program, will continue to build upon our efforts to develop local water, while also furthering our goal of developing projects that provide multiple benefits.

The Innovations Program promotes exploration of new ways in which we can conserve and reuse water, recover resources, and diversify our water supply. The Innovations Program encourages testing of forward-thinking ideas that can help meet San Francisco's long-term potable and non-potable water needs. It is also an opportunity to develop partnerships with the community, industry, developers, technology vendors, and other stakeholders who play key roles in ensuring the long-term sustainability of San Francisco.



The Program is implementing and exploring several innovative efforts, including:

- **PureWaterSF:** Researching how we can reliably treat wastewater generated onsite at the SFPUC headquarters to produce purified water (before it is returned for use in our non-potable system). By purifying recycled water to levels that can be compared to drinking water standards, we are exploring the opportunity to develop a future resource that is local, drought-resistant, and can be used for many of our diverse needs.
- **Expanded Leak Detection:** Exploring new technologies to detect leaks in our system and reduce loss of potable water from the SFPUC pipeline distribution system.
- **Brewery Process Water Reuse:** Providing grant funds to breweries to collect, treat, and reuse process water generated onsite. Collecting and reusing process water onsite can provide significant offsets to potable water usage as breweries use large quantities of water for cleaning tanks, bottles, and equipment. Brewery process water can also be an opportunity for energy recovery.
- **Heat Recovery for Onsite Reuse:** Encouraging the integration of heat recovery in onsite water reuse systems can reduce building energy consumption, operating costs, and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Atmospheric Water Generation (AWG):** Extracting water from ambient air to produce water fit for irrigation and drinking can be accomplished passively, using methods like fog catchers, or actively, fueled by renewable energy sources like solar panels and biogas.

Do you have an innovative approach for improving water use efficiency or creative ideas for recovering and reusing water and energy resources? To share your ideas or learn more about the Innovations Program, contact us at [www.sfwater.org/innovations](http://www.sfwater.org/innovations).