

Hospital finds big water savings in AC system

Florida Hospital Flagler also says it is implementing or looking into other ways to cut its water use, including installation of waterless urinals, use of water-saving devices on all faucets, and recycling of air-conditioning pure-water condensate instead of draining it to retention ponds.

The new well is now the principal water source for the air-conditioning chilling tower, with city water remaining as a backup for it, the press release said. David Kovacs, the hospital's facilities director, said in the release the change for just the air-conditioning system has meant a reduction in city water use of 1 million gallons per month.

Hospital officials say the well was designed to avoid any possible cross-connection to or contamination of the city water system. Palm Coast water officials say they're delighted to see the hospital reduce its demand for public water.

Meanwhile, about 200 gallons per hour of pure condensate forms as the hospital's air-conditioning system pumps cold air into the building. The hospital says it will develop a system to capture and recycle that condensate, reducing demand on the well.