

Research Shows Common-Area Laundry Rooms Use Less Water Than In-Unit Facilities; HUD Study Recommends Submetering

National Research Center Inc., an independent research firm, was contracted by Multi-Housing Laundry Association (MLA) to conduct a national study comparing laundry-water use rates of apartment residents whose buildings have common area laundry rooms with use rates of apartment residents whose buildings have laundry facilities in each unit.

From September to December 2000, laundry-water use was calculated in part using water meters attached to 191 in-unit washing machines and 50 common area



washing machines in eight apartment buildings matched for quality and size in four cities in the United States.

Results were adjusted to reflect residents' self-reports of off-site use during the study period. After adjusting for self-reported off-site laundry use and averaging figures for all four national sites, the study revealed that residents of apartments with in-unit laundry facilities used

3.3 times more water for laundry than residents in apartments using common area laundry facilities.

Further analysis revealed that resi-

dents with in-unit laundry facilities used 5 times more energy than residents in apartments using common area laundry facilities.

The communities with in-unit laundry machines included in the study are master metered.

For details on the MLA study, visit www.mhla.com.

For water conservation and financial savings, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) encourages the use of water efficient toilets, and low-flow shower heads and faucets.

To reduce water consumption, a HUD study recommended common laundry rooms and submetering. For a complete copy of the HUD study, visit www.laundry-wise.com.