

## Front-loading Washing Machines

### What is it?

- Switching campus laundry washing machines from top-loading washers to front-loading washers.

### How does it work?

- Front-loading washing machines are more energy efficient, use less water, and require less laundry detergent.

### How much does it cost?

- Depends. Most campuses rather than purchasing washing machines lease the machines from companies. Your campus can change their contract to start leasing front-loading washers.

### What's the payback period?

- Payback period depends upon individual cases.

### Benefits

- Front-loading washing machines use: 40 to 60% less water, 30 to 50% less energy, 50 to 70% less detergent than top-loaders!
- Most of the energy used for washing clothes is consumed for heating the water. A typical top-loading washer uses about 40 gallons of water as compared to only 20 to 25 gallons in a front-loader.
- The gentle tumbling action of a front-loader is much easier on clothes than the twisting action they receive in a top-loader.
- The typical top-loader machine spins at about 600 rpm (revolutions per minute). Many front-loading machines spin faster -1000 rpm to1600 rpm. This forces more water out of the washing.
- Therefore, front loaders reduce drying time considerably because they spin much faster.
- In Europe, more than 90% of washing machines are front-loaders, compared with less than 5% in the U.S.

### How can we do it?

- Find out which department at your campus is responsible for the leasing contract or purchasing policy for the washers. Ask them to negotiate the next contract to replace washers with only front-loading or create a purchasing policy for front-loading washers.