

Are You Pouring Your Profits Down the Drain?

During the past two decades we have been steadily increasing the amount of water we use, and forecasts indicate that this upward trend will continue. Furthermore, Southern England has had its driest winter, spring and start to the summer since 1976, with only two-thirds of average rainfall. The balance between water supply and water demand is becoming an increasingly vital issue.

According to Dr Martin Gibson, Programme Director at Envirowise : "While there has been a real focus on domestic water usage, with commercial and industrial usage accounting for nearly a third of all water used in the UK¹, the business community can make a significant contribution to water conservation."

Being 'waterwise' can alleviate the pressures on our water resources and the environment, and is good for your business. Water is an increasingly expensive resource with supply, sewerage and trade effluent charges all rising. Reducing consumption is one of the easiest ways to achieve cost savings.

Water bills could be costing the manufacturing industry over 1% of business turnover. In the retail, hospitality and service sectors you could save up to 50% of your water bill. Even in the offices you occupy there are ways to save water with pay back periods of months.

Stop your profits from disappearing down the drain – use the tips and contacts inside this newsletter and attend the free Water Saving Seminar on 22 November.



Helen Davies
Coordinator: West Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership

Thanks to Gill Daniel, Horsham District Council for compiling this edition.

(¹) Ofwat, Security of Supply, leakage and the efficient use of water 2003-04 report

Free Water Saving Seminar

You are invited to a free seminar focusing on understanding and improving water efficiency and water management within your business. Expert help will be on hand to explain your water bills, to check your after hours usage and that you are being charged in the right manner. Breakfast provided.

Date: Tuesday, 22 November 2005

Time: 09h00 – 11h30

Venue: TBC

Booking essential – first come first served - contact

admin@ecosys.org.uk

01273 245654.

SEEDA Sustainable Business Awards - call for applications

Is your business improving its environmental performance and social responsibility whilst maintaining or improving profits?

The SEEDA (South East England Development Agency) Sustainable Business Awards are open to all companies in the South East (excluding the public and education sectors). There are three main categories:

- Small companies with < 50 employees
- Medium sized companies with between 50 and 250 employees
- Large companies with > 250 employees
- ...and a special category for Sustainable Social Enterprises.

The prestigious Awards Presentation Dinner will be held at the Brighton Dome on 9 March 2006. The event offers a delicious locally sourced meal and the opportunity to network with other like-minded businesses.

For details on how to apply see back page.

CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDIES (first 3 from the Environment Agency's Water Efficiency Awards 2005)

SHEEPDROVE ORGANIC FARM

Sheepdrove is a mixed organic farm in Berkshire and also has a compost enterprise, a poultry-processing and butchery plant and a conference venue. The farm offices and conference centre have water-efficient appliances, including waterless urinals, dual flush toilets and stop taps. The farm established a reed bed water treatment system, which will pay for itself in 18 months and represents savings of approximately £229,000 per year. (Winner and Defra Overall Winner)

THE COSMOPOLITAN HOTELS GROUP

The Cosmopolitan Hotels Group, which operates three 3 star hotels in Renfrewshire, Scotland, reduced their water consumption by 39% saving themselves more than £44 000 in water charges alone. Savings were achieved by repairing leaks in pipework, cisterns and storage tanks, installing flow restrictors on water delivery points and putting push taps and urinal controls in washrooms and bathrooms. Reduced frequency of pumping and demand for hot water also resulted in less energy being used. The project had a three month payback period. (Leisure and Tourism Category – Commendation)

POLYCOL LTD.

Polycol Ltd, a manufacturer of PVC compounds in Stalybridge, Cheshire, installed a vacuum pump water recycling system which resulted in a 98% reduction in water-use, the elimination of the need for a discharge consent, annual savings in excess of £4,000 and a two-month payback period. (Envirowise Industry & Business Category – Commendation)

WILTON PARK CONFERENCE CENTRE

Wilton Park, in Steyning, West Sussex, installed five waterless urinals at a cost of £1000. These will reduce water use by 511m³ per year, amounting to an annual cost saving of £378 and giving a payback period of approximately two and a half years.

To read about other companies who have reduced their water costs, see the 'case studies' section of www.egeneration.co.uk/westsussex

TOOLS TO HELP SAVE WATER & MONEY

THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Offers a variety of publications which are available on its website.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/savewater
08708 506 506

Waterwise: good for business and good for the environment

- will help you to conduct a water audit and produce a water management plan that will deliver savings and help the environment.

Waterwise on the farm - provides tried and tested guidance to farmers and growers.

Conserving water in buildings – is a series of eleven fact cards on water efficiency technologies, including a supplier list.

ENVIROWISE

will help you identify ways to minimise water use by understanding where waste occurs in your business and how to reduce it. Envirowise also offer advice on waste and other environmental issues. Free, confidential visits to assess water and waste use are available via the helpline.

The Water Net service will help you locate publications about best practice in water minimisation relevant to your business.

The Big Splash campaign provides free, hands-on advice to help businesses understand how much water they use, how it can be reduced and how to measure the cost savings.

www.envirowise.gov.uk/water
0800 585794

ENHANCED CAPITAL ALLOWANCES

The Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme allows businesses to claim 100% of the cost (including installation) of approved items listed on the Water Technology List (water meters, flow controllers, leakage detection equipment, low flush toilets and efficient taps) against taxable profit in the first year.

www.eca-water.gov.uk

LOCAL WATER COMPANIES

Your water will be supplied by one of the following companies. Many of these offer practical advice to business customers on how to reduce water consumption.

Southern Water www.southernwater.co.uk
0845 278 0845

South East Water www.southeastwater.co.uk
01444 884033/34/35

Portsmouth Water www.portsmouthwater.co.uk
023 9249 9888

Sutton and East Surrey Water www.waterplc.com
01737 772000

SUPPLIERS DIRECTORY

For details of companies that supply water efficiency products or services.

www.egeneration.co.uk/westsussex

Water use - how do you compare?

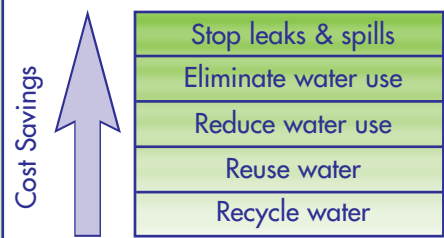
Typical water use for offices is 9.3m³ per full time equivalent employees (fte). To find out how you compare, divide your annual water use by the number of fte.

Good practice = 6.4m³/fte

Best practice = <5 m³/fte

Take Action WATER SAVING

WATER HIERARCHY:



NO OR LOW COST MEASURES

Monitor your water bills. Sudden unexplained increases may mean you have a leak. If a leak is suspected take a meter reading last thing at night and first thing in the morning. If the reading has changed a leak is likely. (Any known night use will have to be shut off or accounted for).

Review your water charges

Waste water is charged at an assumed return to sewer rate of 95% of the water supplied. If you can prove that a lot of the water you use ends up in products, or does not go to sewer you may be eligible for a reduced waste water charge. Charges for waste water are generally twice that of water supply so savings can be significant.

Check the size of the water supply pipe to your premises. Larger supply pipes are charged at a higher rate. If you do not have a high water demand you could down size and cut costs drastically.

Similarly, trade effluent discharges are charged at a variable rate. There may also be scope for cost savings here too. Contact your water undertaker to discuss.

Fix dripping taps – they could be wasting up to one litre per minute

Turn off water-using appliances when not in use.

Fit Hippos and Save-a-Flush bags (cistern displacement devices), they can save up to 3 litres per flush. They are often available free of charge from your water company.

Use the plug to wash vegetables in catering facilities. This stops clean water pouring down the plug hole.

Fill the dishwasher/ washing machine – make sure you have a full load before switching on. Look for water saving models when replacing old units.

Collect rainwater in water butts for watering outside plants and small landscaped areas.

Grow the grass longer in the summer – it looks greener, and lawns don't need watering.

Choose drought resistant plants for containers and hanging baskets.

Ban the use of hoses and pressure washing equipment for general use in cleaning factory floors, forecourts, machinery and vehicles.

MEDIUM COST MEASURES

Install low and dual-flush toilets when replacing existing units. The maximum cistern volume of new toilets is 6 litres, compared with 9 litres for older models.

Supply restrictor valves are easily fitted to supply pipes and keep the water flow constant, regardless of fluctuations in water pressure.

Tap controls are an easy and cheap way of reducing water consumption and are available in both new and retrofit versions. Different types include infra-red, battery operated, simple push-top and spray taps.

Urinal controls can be retrofitted to existing urinals, ensuring that the cistern flushes at regular intervals during office hours, or after use, rather than continuously.

Waterless urinals use either a syphonic trap, or an outlet in the urinal containing a pad impregnated with a deodorising agent.

Reduce water flushing requirements in urinals by installing products that break down uric sludge and biofilm.

OTHER MEASURES

The following options should be considered, particularly in the construction of a new building:

Washroom control systems not only limit hot and cold water supply, but also control lighting and ventilation, therefore providing additional energy savings.

Rainwater harvesting systems collect and filter rainwater from roofs or large paved areas such as car parks. This water can then be used for toilet flushing or vehicle washing.

Greywater recycling involves using wastewater from washroom basins and showers and using for flushing toilets or outside watering.

Recycle factory process water where possible

When purchasing new equipment, take its water efficiency into account. It may be more expensive to buy water efficient equipment, but it may have a short payback period due to the water savings achieved.

(Information largely from the Environment Agency:
www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

STICK THIS POSTER ON YOUR NOTICEBOARD

LOCAL EVENTS AND SUPPORT

FREE Water Saving Seminar

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 22 November 2005	09h00 – 11h30	TBC

To register: admin@ecosys.org.uk; 01273 245654.

NISP Quick-Wins Workshop & Regional Launch

Do you have surplus capacity or resources at your facility? Throwing out stuff that others could use? Are you seeking out cheaper materials?

Joining NISP (the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme) and attending Quick Wins workshops could offer opportunities and networks that address your concerns.

NISP is a business-led initiative that encourages companies to look outside their own physical and sector boundaries for additional resource efficiencies and sustainable market opportunities. Membership is free for all companies, regardless of size or turnover and all resources are dealt with including energy, materials, assets, logistics, expertise and water.

Event	Date	Venue
West Sussex Quick Wins workshop	Tuesday, 8 November 2005	TBC
Regional Launch of NISP	Thursday, 27 October 2005	Le Meridian, Gatwick

To register: contact George Padelopoulos (George.Padelopoulos@scottwilson.com); 01256 310391)

West Sussex Recycling Directory

The website (www.egeneration.co.uk/westsussex) has just been updated. This holds the contact details of companies that recycle various materials and operate in West Sussex. Should you be a recycling company and not be on the database, register free of charge now.

The West Sussex Waste Exchange has recently been revamped to enable easier use. Register free of charge to load information on materials that you have that could be reused by another business or to register materials that you could use from other businesses.

The WSSBP offers the following services free to SME's:

- Environmental site visits
- Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Network Group
- Training on energy, water, waste and transport management
- Website (www.egeneration.co.uk/westsussex)
- Helpline
- Access to sustainable business awards

Contact Helen Davies, Coordinator: WSSBP sbp@westsussex.gov.uk; 01243 756869 to register for the above or for local council contact information.



New Agricultural Waste Regulations Seminar

Due to popular demand a repeat and update seminar on the new Agricultural Waste Regulations is being organised.

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 30 November 2005	TBC	TBC

To register: Helen Davies sbp@westsussex.gov.uk or 01243 756869.

Transport Seminar feedback

25 companies attended the WSSBP transport seminar held on 1 July. The true costs of transport (fuel, climate change, stress, parking etc.) were highlighted and delegates were encouraged to compile staff and fleet travel plans for their companies to reduce these costs. Presentation information from the event can be found on www.egeneration.co.uk/westsussex ('What's New' section)



Contact sbp@westsussex.gov.uk; 01243 756869 to order your collection of free 'Make the Change' transport posters

SEEDA Sustainable Business Awards

The Awards are open to all companies in West Sussex (see front page for category details).

All entrants based in West Sussex can only be nominated for the awards through the WSSBP. The closing date for entries to reach the WSSBP is **Wednesday, 9 November 2005**. For an application form and guidance notes see the 'Awards' section of www.egeneration.co.uk/westsussex

Please contact Helen Davies, WSSBP Coordinator on 01243 756869 or email sbp@westsussex.gov.uk if you would like further information or help with your application.

Crawley Green Business Awards 2005

(Crawley Borough-based businesses only)

Has your company/school/ organisation improved its environmental performance? If so enter the Crawley Green Business Awards. £1,000 prize is up for grabs along with others. There is an additional prize for the best transport campaign. Enter now on www.crawley.gov.uk/gba. You are also invited to the ceremony on the Friday, 9 December from 3-5pm to see how your business could benefit from going green. To book, enter or if you need more information call Thaddeus Dell at Crawley Council on 01293 438543.