

## Taking the P?

Yes, it's raining again! No sooner do the water companies apply for drought orders but the heavens open and everyone complains about the weather! Remember the late Dennis Howell, minister for drought back in '76? Appointed one minute, flooding the next. So why should you bother about water? It can't be in short supply now, surely?

Unfortunately, living in West Sussex, we are mostly dependent upon water stored in the underground aquifers in the chalk downland. Unlike a reservoir which can fill relatively quickly, filling up the "sponge" that is the chalk can take several years, especially after the exceptionally dry winters of the past two years.

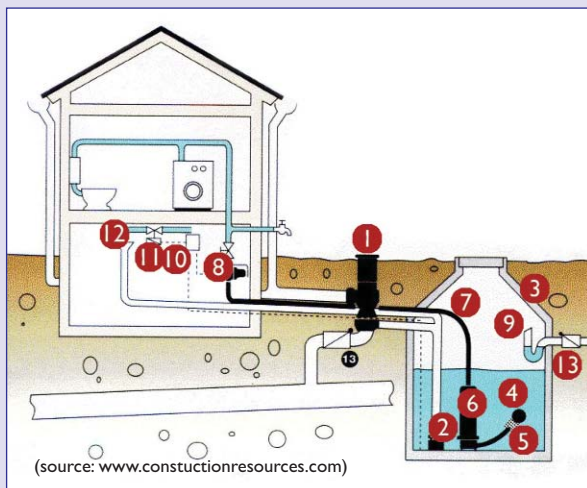
You will have noticed that your company's water bill has been rising along with all your other utility bills. So what can you do about it?

Well, putting it crudely, what other product has to be produced to the highest safety standard, suitable for drinking, and at a high cost, and the majority of which is immediately fouled and flushed down a toilet! Bonkers! Enter stage left a solution so simple that even the ancient Mesopotamians used it –

# RAINWATER HARVESTING

## What is it?

It's just a posh name for collecting and using rain to flush your loos, wash your vehicles and 101 other uses that don't really need to be clean drinking water. It's water that would otherwise have just gone down the drains to the sea. And the big advantage? IT'S FREE! (well, with a bit of expenditure on a tank and other stuff)



## What can it be used for?

If you use a lot of water for any of the following:

- Dust control
- Cleaning processes during manufacturing
- Washing vehicles
- Agriculture and Horticulture

- In offices for flushing toilets and urinals
- General cleaning

## How much money will I save?

Depends really on how much water you use, but it can run into thousands of pounds. The payback on installation costs can be calculated once you have analysed your bills and average use. Tap water costs around 1p for 10 litres and the average office worker uses around 45 litres each day for flushing – over a year that could amount to £10 per worker, just for taking a leak!

## How does it work?

There are different systems available and below is one example.

- A control unit monitors the water level in the storage tank and can display this information to the user. If levels drop too low, the system switches to the mains water supply and if it gets too high, an overflow trap allows floating material to be skimmed off to a storm drain.
- Can be installed in both new and existing buildings.
- On business premises there are often large roof and hard standing areas to catch rainwater. This provides an incentive to invest in rainwater harvesting equipment as business use can offer a relatively short pay-back period.
- For a typical 640 mm of rain a year in the South East 120 litres a day can be collected.
- Facilities managers are increasingly insisting that these systems are installed in new buildings but are also looking to retro-fitting the equipment to existing buildings.

1 Vortex Underground filter  
2 Inflow smoothing filter  
3 Tank  
4 Floating filter  
5 Suction hose

6 Multigo pressure pump  
7 Pressure hose  
8 Automatic switch and ball valve  
9 Overflow trap  
10 Installation controls

11 Solenoid valve  
12 Mains backup with 'Type A' air gap  
13 Anti surcharge

## What other options have I?

If rainwater harvesting is not for your business at this particular time, there are still many ways that you can cut down your water use with very little outlay.

- Water butts can be bought for around £20 – contact your water supplier
- Dripping taps can be fixed for pennies and taps can be fitted with spray heads
- Water flushed down the toilet can be cut by up to a third by using free Hippo bags available from [www.southernwater.co.uk](http://www.southernwater.co.uk)

Check out the **FREE** water audit service on page ?

## Who can supply water efficiency devices?

Check out: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commodata/105385/cwb4\\_suppliers\\_876201.pdf](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commodata/105385/cwb4_suppliers_876201.pdf)

Information taken from [www.constructionresources.com](http://www.constructionresources.com) and [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

# ‘Why Should I Worry About the Environment?



## I've the VAT Man Coming Next Week!

**Given all the stress involved in running a business, worrying about operating it in a responsible way seems like an optional extra, given day to day pressures like surviving a visit by the VAT man! However, one could ask, "What planet are you living on?" And the answer should be "the ONLY one available!"**

Our environment and the damage we have all been causing through our day to day activities is rapidly moving up the political agenda, and a mass of column inches have been written recently, particularly about the catchily entitled "**Corporate Social Responsibility.**"

CSR is a philosophy which increasing numbers of businesses of all sizes are encompassing. It is not only about operating in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way, but also making a positive contribution to the environment in general, both physical and social.

In March 2005 the West Sussex Sustainability Forum launched their new strategy '**Time for Action**'.

There are 12 general principles to consider outlined in this strategy for a sustainable future:

These are:

- Adopt and encourage healthy lifestyles
- Care for those most in need
- Minimise waste and aim to consume less
- Protect and enhance our natural and built environment, wildlife and heritage
- Encourage locally produced goods and make greater use of local facilities and services
- Ensure everyone has access to knowledge, information and skills to enable them to make their personal contribution to society
- Adapt to changes in the environment of West Sussex
  - Encourage democracy and support public participation
- Create a society in which everyone is included
- Reduce the causes of crime and persecution
- Respect the diversity of cultures and local distinctiveness in the county
  - Work in fairly paid employment in a diverse, vibrant local economy

Companies which look holistically at their operation and its impact are able to spot where cost savings can be made, increase their competitive advantage, retain valuable staff and gain the respect of their customers. Opportunities to get involved will be highlighted in our new feature "CSR Corner" the first of which is featured on page 3 of this edition.

If you already operate a CSR policy and feel that your company can offer support and advice to others, please let us know and we will help publicise your achievements. Email [sbp@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:sbp@westsussex.gov.uk) or phone Anna Buckingham on 01243 777348

## FREE WATER AUDITS

Southern Water has distributed more than 13,000 save-a-flush bags and advised more than 400 organisations on how to reduce their water usage in just three months.

The Water Efficiency Team was created to help customers conserve water as the region is experiencing the driest period since the 1930s and the worst drought since 1976.

The company's Water Efficiency Team offers businesses, schools and councils advice on how to reduce their water usage by having a free water efficiency survey carried out at their premises.



### WOULD YOU LIKE?

- a survey carried out by the team
- advice to help reduce your water usage and therefore bills
- tips on how to reduce water usage by fitting save-a-flush bags into toilets
- advice on water efficient products such as water efficient taps and shower fittings
- identification of dripping taps and possible leaks.

Southern Water is planning to start the audits again in the new year and they will run until the end of March 2008. If you would like a **FREE** water audit from Southern Water contact: [beatthedrought@southernwater.co.uk](mailto:beatthedrought@southernwater.co.uk)

## CRAWLEY GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAMME

In February 2006 Crawley Borough Council's Members and Directors agreed to support immediate actions to conserve water, to act as community leaders and gain public confidence.

Site visits of licensed premises have been undertaken and still continue. So far, 32 out of 76 premises have been visited, to provide good practice advice on water efficiency.

The premises receive a letter and a phone call as a follow up to ensure actions are implemented. Dripping taps are measured using a drip gauge and the potential savings explained.

### Water Savings

- Crawley Borough Council activities. 5,542,210 litres for 18 week season
- Licensed premises, 1,750,750 litres per annum

If you would like a **FREE** water audit and your business is located within Crawley Borough then contact: Thaddeus Dell, Environment Officer, Crawley Borough Council.

Tel: 01293 438543

Email: [thaddeus.dell@crawley.gov.uk](mailto:thaddeus.dell@crawley.gov.uk)

[www.crawley.gov.uk/gb](http://www.crawley.gov.uk/gb)



## CSR Corner

Opportunities for your business to help the local community

## Sussex Otters and Rivers Project

The Sussex Otters and Rivers Project (SORP) needs £8000 to carry out a full river habitat survey for otters and water voles, and to identify sites for wetland restoration. The Arun is one of only three areas where the water vole remains in any numbers in Sussex, following a decline of 90% in the last 20 years. SORP is working with partners to set up an Arun Water Vole and Wetlands project, which will work with landowners and other organisations to try and prevent the extinction of the water vole on this catchment, and to secure its survival in the long term, as well as undertaking research into its distribution and spread. Would your company like to help sponsor this work? Call Fran Southgate on 01273 497555 or email: [fransouthgate@sussexwt.org.uk](mailto:fransouthgate@sussexwt.org.uk)



# LOCAL EVENTS AND CALENDAR

## Retail Seminar Feedback

'Easy Money for the Retail Sector' was held on the 26 October 2006 at Park Barn, Horsham. The workshop illustrated how the retail sector could reduce its utility costs through no cost or low cost actions.

Examples of actions identified include:

- Investigate if packaging waste can be recycled with local business
- Install insulation (walls, roof and pipes) and draught proofing
- Monitor heating and ventilation temperatures on a daily basis
- Install push button spray taps



Delegates working hard on their 'Action Plans'

Presentation information from the event can be found at [www.egeneration.co.uk/westsussex](http://www.egeneration.co.uk/westsussex)

NEXT Retail Workshop will be in Spring '07 in Worthing. To register your interest, please email [sbp@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:sbp@westsussex.gov.uk) or call Shelaine on 01243 756869.



"Seasons Greetings" from the WSSBP team.

## Your Calendar - WSSBP Free events for 2007

2 full days:	FREE Money Seminar - SUMS (Simply Utility Management Seminars)	A programme of workshops providing practical information on how to increase your profitability by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minimising your waste</li> <li>• improving your energy</li> <li>• improving water efficiency</li> </ul> <p>Previous delegates typically saved £2 – 3K p.a. At a 10% profit margin this is equivalent to increasing sales by £20,000 – £30,000!</p> <p>LUNCH provided</p> <p><b>FREE</b> To register email <a href="mailto:sbp@westsussex.gov.uk">sbp@westsussex.gov.uk</a> or call Shelaine on 01243 756869</p>
<b>Chichester:</b> Tues 23 Jan and Tues 30 Jan 2007		
<b>Crawley:</b> Thurs 25 Jan 2007 and Thurs 1 Feb 2007	Cost Action	

## Other Events

1 Feb 2007	Profit through efficiency – Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs)	09:30 – 15:15 Novotel Southampton Hotel, 1 West Quay Road, Southampton SO15 1RA
	Cost Action	<b>FREE</b> To register, contact Envirowise, 0870 000 3903 or <a href="http://www.envirowise.gov.uk">www.envirowise.gov.uk</a>
Thurs 15 and 16 Feb 2007	Resource Efficiency Knowledge Transfer Network - first Annual Conference	Call for Papers: contact Jenny Marsden, Network Administrator, Resource Efficiency KTN, c/o C-Tech Innovation Ltd, Capenhurst Technology Park, Chester, CH1 6EH Email: <a href="mailto:resource@ctechinnovation.com">resource@ctechinnovation.com</a>
	Royal Berkshire Conference Centre, Reading	
	Cost Action	<b>FREE</b> To register or find out more contact: Michelle Chilton, Venues for Business Ltd, Unit 1, Bosinney Court, 124-126 Stockbridge Road, Winchester SO22 6RN Tel: 01962 865 962 Fax: 01962 865 735 Email: <a href="mailto:Michelle@venuesforbusiness.co.uk">Michelle@venuesforbusiness.co.uk</a>

Thank you to the following for contributing to this edition of the newsletter: Chris Hodgson, Fran Southgate, Thaddeus Dell, Anna Buckingham and Construction Resources.

