

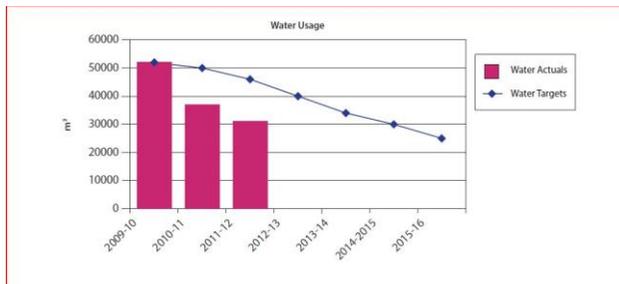
Conserving water is one of the most effective ways to help protect the environment and make the best use of our existing water resources.

There are many ways to reduce water use in your business.

Analyse water efficiency

Assess water use in your business. Some of the information your business will need to gather:

- Water bills for the past two years. Sudden or gradual increases in water use may indicate leaks
- Plumbing diagram (if available)
- List of equipment or processes that use water
- Number of employees
- Water saving policies and procedures
- Reading water meters regularly can identify any unexpected increases in water usage that can indicate leaks
- Identify other water related costs such as energy costs from heating water
- Chart water usage and display this in a public area.



An example of a Rain Garden using recycled stormwater.

Benchmark Your Business

The National Business Water Efficiency Benchmark (NBWeb) Tool provides a standardised approach to measure water usage across similar businesses.

By understanding your benchmark and the uses of water or processes that contribute to it, you may be able to improve productivity and establish a realistic water use target.

This free and easy to use tool provides:

- A consistent approach to measure water resource efficiency
- Compares relative performance between competing industries
- Identifies best practice and highlights ways to improve your businesses water usage which could lead to reduced utility costs
- Connects business customers with best practice case studies and contacts for next steps.

You will find the NBWeb tool at www.nbweb.com.au

Things you could do

Encourage staff to contribute to water saving ideas.

Taps

- Install water-efficient taps (at least 3 star rated flow restrictors)
- Install lever or mixer taps, as temperature balance is easier to maintain and minimises wastage
- Fix leaking taps and washers.

White goods

- Use white goods with a high water efficiency rating. A water-efficient dishwasher can use up to 50% less water.

Toilets

- Replace single-flush toilets with dual-flush toilets
- Check regularly, and fix leaks.

Hot Water Systems

- Energy-efficient hot water systems can reduce your energy use and save you money
- There are different types of Hot Water Systems e.g. Solar or Gas. Information to help you decide what type of system will suit your business can be found at www.yourenergysavings.gov.au

Outdoors

- Install rainwater tanks
- Use drought-tolerant plants or plants suitable for local rainfall conditions
- Use mulch to keep moisture in the soil
- Use mops, brooms, or a bucket to wash and rinse. Don't use hoses to clean hard surface areas.



Non potable water

In many cases it is possible to use non-potable water in your business (e.g. flushing toilets). Using non-potable water for selected purposes can save money.

The quality of non-potable water will vary depending on its source and level of treatment applied and so may contain biological hazards. It is therefore important to weigh up the risks and benefits. Non-potable water sources can include the following:

Storm-water

Is the run-off from roofs, roads, driveways and other hard surfaces. Storm-water must generally be treated for use. Water caught in rainwater tanks is suitable for some uses.

Grey & Recycled-water

These types of non-potable water may be an option. Before you plan to use non-potable water in your business check council's planning regulations for non-potable water and the *Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling*.



Water-efficient products

You can cut water consumption by using appliances with a high water-efficiency rating. Look for the water rating label. For more information, visit the Australian Government's Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme at www.waterrating.gov.au



Water Restrictions

Council implements water restrictions when water supply storage drops below key capacity levels.

Please check Councils website or contact council for information on current restrictions.

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Tips for Saving Water in Your Business



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