Counting every drop

Throughout 2008, CW&F implemented a number of initiatives to improve the way water is utilised at UWS. You may have read about some of those initiatives in the “green” issue of UniLife (Autumn 2008)...

Water saving actions

As a significant water user, UWS is required by law to prepare and implement Water Savings Action Plans. Such plans enable us to gain a better understanding of how we use water. Throughout 2008, we implemented a number of water saving measures at Werrington South, Kingswood and Hawkesbury campuses to complement the Greening UWS initiative. The water saving measure including timed, low flow water taps in restrooms, smart flush toilets (a whopping 250 toilets in total!) and water monitoring technology. By monitoring our water use, we’ll know exactly how much water we’re using and will be able to implement further water saving initiatives.

Rainwater harvesting

Another aspect of the Greening UWS initiative involves rainwater harvesting at Werrington South. We installed seven 10,000-litre tanks to harvest water off the roof of the Ward Library. That water is then pumped through a state-of-the-art trickle irrigation system to our native, drought-tolerant gardens by solar-powered pumps.

Water audits

To complement our Water Saving Action Plans, we conducted water audits at Parramatta and Campbelltown campuses. The audits were funded by Sydney Water’s Every Drop Counts Program. They provide us with a clear picture of where further water saving actions could be implemented.

Continuing to green UWS

Campbelltown campus will be a key focus of next year’s greening UWS initiative, with the overall aim being to make the campus more water efficient and bicycle friendly. Water saving initiatives have been incorporated into the design of the new student residences being built at Campbelltown and Kingswood campuses.

Water recycling

Building on the Hawkesbury Water Recycling Scheme, UWS is working in partnership with Sydney Water to supply the Hawkesbury racecourse and showground with a sustainable supply of recycled water for their racetrack and arena. Funded by the NSW Climate Change Fund, we recently installed 2.6 kilometres of pipeline between the two sites and the Richmond Recycled Water Plant. This initiative will save 10 million litres of water a year!

The CW&F environment and risk management team have an extensive list of exciting new water conservation and management initiatives for 2009. For more information, contact Dr Roger Attwater, Senior Manager, Environment and Risk on 02 4570 1238 or email rattwater@uws.edu.au

Feedback/queries

If you have any feedback on the CW&F newsletter, or any queries, please contact the Editor:

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