

Case Study

Saving Water: Make it Your Business

Case Study: St Matthews Homes – Kensington Park

Water efficiency through behaviour change and monitoring water use

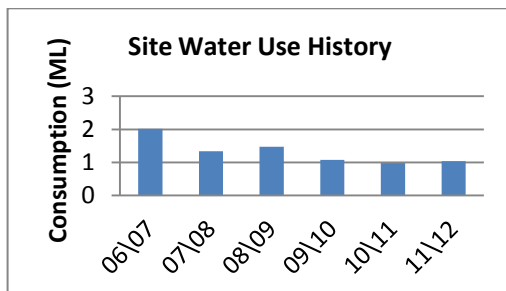
St Matthews Homes provides independent living accommodation and facilities for aged persons. Residents at their Giles Court Kensington Park site have implemented some simple yet effective measures which have helped reduce their water consumption significantly. Compared to the 2006/07 financial year, their annual drinking water consumption has decreased 41% on average.

How have the savings been achieved?

St Matthews management have progressively arranged for the installation of dual flush cisterns and water efficient shower heads. Quarterly newsletters facilitate the highlighting of any water related issues. At Giles Court the water usage is recorded on a monthly basis. This data enabled comparisons to be made between different time periods. The ongoing cooperation from residents has helped save a significant amount of water.

Continuous monitoring through meter reading

One of the first steps to becoming more water efficient is to monitor water use. This measure provides residents with an opportunity to become acquainted with water usage each month and yearly. Continuous monitoring is a useful activity and can identify water being wasted and can assist in identifying water leaks at an early stage.



Entrance to Giles Court

Behavioural changes

After discussions with the St Matthews gardener it was decided to stop watering the 'kikuyu' grass lawns. Previous experience had shown this drought tolerant species of grass can recover well after winter rainfall. The picture above was taken in September and illustrates the depth of recovery in progress using minimal irrigation. Hand-held hoses fitted with trigger nozzles are used widely. High flow inefficient irrigation systems were abandoned. Drought tolerant flora species were planted and some residents continue to collect rain water for watering pot plants. Residents have also responded by reducing their shower times.

A moderate increase in water use is expected in the event of increased temperatures and a reduced rainfall in the warmer months. St Matthews are aware that overwatering can cause damage to plants and will ensure the garden is only given the volume of water that is required.

Congratulations to residents of Giles Court and the management of St Matthews Homes Kensington Park!

Further information

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