

Water Conservation on Campus

Rainfall has decreased significantly in the UK over the last 25 years. However, the demand for water is increasing in Universities and Colleges. This is down to greater provision of catering facilities, increased facilities for individual students, and a greater demand for water used in research or teaching vocational courses. All of these aspects involve end-users and their user behaviour. Conserving water is both a technical and behavioural issue on campus, and the following guide considers both aspects.

Water Audits

When beginning to look into effective water management an audit is essential for finding problem areas and future monitoring. Most water providers will be able to support the following key activities:

- Monitoring the water use over a weekend at your institution—this highlights if there is too much water use during this low consumption period
- Leak detection surveys provide a starting point for wider more substantial changes and reductions

Technical Project Ideas

- Rain water harvesting
- Grey water recycling
- Low flush toilets, waterless urinals
- Lab equipment audit
- Catering facilities water process audit
- Construction/Hair & Beauty/Vocational course water process audit
- Installation of automated meter readers to track and alert on any sudden water pressure changes
- Clear long term financial saving data is available from many of the above technical projects— ensure this is emphasised when looking to gain approval for costs of initial projects



Approaching Water Behavioural Change

- Having detailed knowledge of a department's current water processes, along with a strategy for replacing current practices, will help in bringing departments on board
- When replacing equipment allow for side-by-side testing with previous equipment (especially in labs) to allow for the department's staff to be confident in its functioning
- When water use is required for a specific course, meetings with course leaders should emphasise the importance of water conservation methods within the curriculum for that topic