

WATER SMART Business

The commercial and industrial sectors account for around 22% of drinking water use in Sydney.

For the majority of businesses, water services represent only a very small component of overall operating costs, and water efficiency programs have to compete for resources against other core business initiatives. To overcome these factors, a range of successful programs has been developed to improve how businesses think about and use water.

Several water saving programs applying to business are also applicable to the government and household sectors. Details of these programs can be found under the 'Water-saving initiatives' fact sheet included in this Communications Kit.



Below is a selection of Every Drop Counts Business Program case studies.

Commercial and financial sector

Lend Lease Retail joined the EDC Business Program in October 2003. A water efficiency audit conducted at Macarthur Shopping Centre resulted in savings of 31 million litres per year and identified further savings opportunities of 18 million litres per year.

Hospitality sector

The hospitality sector accounts for 11% of total business sector usage. The Water Check Program for Hotels enables each hotel to be benchmarked against Sydney Water's Water Conservation Best Practice Guidelines for Hotels. Water savings that have been achieved as a result of the Water Check Program for Hotels are nearly 100 million litres per year.

Manufacturing sector

The paper manufacturing industry is a large consumer of water, using over 4 million litres per day or nearly 1.5 billion litres per year.

One of Sydney's largest paper mills trialled a drum filter in October 2003. The clarified water from the drum filter was used to replace 250 million litres per year of drinking water use in various applications, such as for chemical dilution. The company had also been benchmarking its water use per tonne of paper manufactured and had reduced water usage by 15% since joining the EDC Business Program in 2002.

The paper mill will continue to focus on optimising the drum filter with further drinking water savings of over 200 million litres per year targeted by mid 2006.

For more information visit waterforlife.nsw.gov.au