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WATER SAVING TIPS FOR THE FOOD & BEVERAGE SECTOR

Water Saving Tips

Efficient water use makes good business sense. There are many opportunities for our businesses to make simple changes to daily operations which will save significant quantities of water. These reductions will improve the efficiency of our businesses, increase our company profile, increase staff performance and save considerable amounts of money.

It is worth noting that industry as a whole is relatively efficient with its water use. Many organisations have made considerable reductions in their water demands and are reaping the benefits of their increased performance. We should use this good work and the forthcoming water restrictions as motivation to increase our performance even further.

The following are some simple tips that we can implement in our daily operations which will help save our organisations valuable resources and precious capital.

Food and Beverage Industry

- **Trigger nozzles:** Use trigger nozzles where possible to reduce water use.
- **High pressure cleaners:** Use high pressure water cleaners where possible to increase water efficiency and reduce water demand.
- **Cooling tower:** Increase cooling tower efficiency to reduce loss through blowdown and drift.
- **Cleaning:** Reduce and reuse water required for cleaning where possible.
- **Surface runoff:** Capture surface runoff where possible to be used as cleaning water or as a grey water substitute for cooling, toilets, gardens etc.
- **Water treatment:** Look at water treatment options if your business is water intensive and treat water for reuse if at all possible.
- **Leaks:** Fix all leaks as soon as they occur and maintain regular checks.
- **Dry sweep:** Use sweeping, squeegeeing, vacuuming or shovelling solids prior to wash up to prevent product going to drain and elevated trade waste charges. Do not use hoses as brooms.
- **Compressed air:** Use compressed air to clean machinery instead of water where possible.
- **Trade waste:** Make sure product does not contact the ground and do not position machinery directly over drains.
- **Reuse:** Look for water reuse opportunities where possible. For example, can rinse water be used for pre-wash water in another process. Can water used for cooling machinery, be used for cleaning? Can waste product be used by another organisation? For example waste whey and some confectionary wastes can be spray dried and used to generate raw materials for other organisations.
- **Drains:** Relocate drains away from direct process areas. Cover all drains with sieves to prevent materials going to sewer and elevated trade waste charges.

- **Spills:** Avoid spills where possible. Install spill collection hoppers and flanges to prevent product contacting the floor. This will help with reuse and prevent trade waste charges.
- **CIP:** Install a Clean-In-Place module for the capture and treatment of water including the retention and reuse of chemicals.
- **Tanks and mixers:** Thoroughly scrape clean batch tanks and mixers prior to hosing clean. This will reduce residuals going to sewer and ultimately reduce lost material and elevate trade waste costs.
- **Chemicals:** Use chemicals more sparingly. This will save you money through reduced chemical use, reduce chemical dosing for trade waste demands and reduce trade waste costs associated with TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) levels.
- **Monitor:** Monitor water use and trade waste demands for each process and product. Develop a trend of water demand and trade waste as a percentage of product output. This will help to identify issues and areas to be targeted in a water management plan and also highlight the company's performance.
- **Material flow:** Conduct a basic material flow diagram to identify which process or products use the greatest amounts of water and develop goals and targets to reduce demand. Measure water use with bucket and stopwatch to determine the water used for each process.
- **Maintenance:** Increase maintenance of machinery to reduce wasted water.

For more information please visit the Ai Group Website at www.aigroup.asn.au or speak to an Ai Group Resource Efficiency Adviser on 03 9867 0111.

Information about efficient use of resources can be found at the following websites:
Sustainability Victoria www.sustainability.vic.gov.au or EPA Victoria at www.epa.vic.gov.au

