

# What is **business** doing to save water?



Our Water Our Future

A Victorian Government initiative





# What is business doing to save water? With the help of Victoria's Water Plan-**a lot.**

Victorian householders aren't the only ones doing their bit to save water. Since 2000, our industrial, commercial and institutional water users have saved billions of litres. And they're getting better all the time.

As part of Victoria's Water Plan, the State Government has been working closely with business on a range of important initiatives that are Saving, Creating and Sharing our water. Here are just a few of them.

## **WaterMAP**

All non-residential drinking water users in Victoria who use more than 10 million litres a year are required to develop a water management action plan (waterMAP). The program involves over 1,850 organisations, including 1,250 in the Melbourne area.

## **Environmental resource planning**

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requires all organisations using more than 100 million litres of water a year to develop an Environmental and Resource Efficiency Plan (EREP) to improve water and energy use and to reduce waste. The EPA and DSE work closely to avoid duplication for customers involved in both waterMAP and EREP programs.

## **Annual water reporting**

Victoria's water corporations are required to report on significant water users and these companies are named in Parliament as part of the annual reporting process. (The level of individual water use is not disclosed.)

## **Incentive funding**

Government funding will be made available through a number of programs, including Regional Development Victoria's \$10 million Water for Industry Fund and the Department of Sustainability and Environment's \$10 million Stormwater and Urban Recycling Fund for innovative water saving projects.

## **Smart metering**

Installation of smart water meters for Melbourne's Top 200 users allows up-to-date monitoring of water use throughout the day. The meters give clear information about when, where and how water is being used within a business. This leads to more efficient decision making when investing in water-saving equipment and encourages water conservation and the use of recycled water.

## **Smart Water Fund**

The Smart Water Fund encourages the development of innovative water and bio-solids recycling and water-saving projects. Over 120 projects have been supported by the Fund with grants totalling around \$20 million. The potential combined water savings of these projects is more than 1.5 billion litres a year.

*Smart Water Fund grants are available to any individual, community group, commercial enterprise or professional research body with an innovative idea to help secure water supplies for the future. Visit <http://www.smartwater.com.au> or call 1800 882 432 for more information on funding opportunities.*



Large and small. Public and private. City and country. Organisations of every shape and size are making great strides in helping reduce the pressure on our water supplies. Here are just a few examples.

### **Baking Industry Association of Victoria**

The Baking Industry Association of Victoria is auditing water use by Victorian Bakeries and developing a water-saving guide. An average bakery could save up to 72,000 litres of water a year. With over 2,000 bakeries in Victoria, that's a lot of water.

### **Cadbury Schweppes**

Cadbury Schweppes aims to save up to 21 million litres of water and wastewater a year by installing an efficient new conveyor belt system that does not require water. Up to eight manufacturing lines will be retro-fitted at the Cadbury Schweppes Tullamarine factory.

### **ERA Nurseries**

ERA Nurseries is a large scale seeding production nursery in Hamilton and one of the largest users of water in the area. A Smart Water Fund grant will allow them to install a recycling system that collects, treats, stores and re-uses rainwater and irrigation run-off, reducing mains water use by 12.5 million litres a year.

### **Gisborne Junior Soccer Club**

The Gisborne Junior Soccer Club is installing sub-surface recycled water to irrigate its Dixon Field sports ground. This will reduce drinking water consumption by up to 40 per cent and save up to 12 million litres within three years.

### **Kraft Foods Australia**

Kraft Foods Australia is planning to invest \$2.5 million to improve process efficiency, reduce wastewater and improve the wastewater treatment (salinity levels) at its Port Melbourne plant. The investment, which will save 74 million litres of water and increase water recycling, is expected to be paid off through cost savings within a few years.

### **Mildura Rural City Council**

The council aims to save six million litres by using stormwater at the Mildura Landfill Complex to wet down roads when dust suppression is required.

### **Nestlé Foods**

Nestlé Foods will save about five million litres of drinking water every year by capturing rainwater from factory roof areas and using it in boiler and cooling towers.

### **Oenos**

Oenos is Australia's sole manufacturer of polyethylene resins and its Olefins site is one of Melbourne's major water users. Through its participation in Melbourne's largest industrial recycled water project, the company will now receive two billion litres a year of Class A recycled water from City West Water's Altona Treatment Plant – cutting its use of drinking water by 90 per cent.

### **Racing Victoria**

Racing Victoria has successfully trialled a new synthetic training track at Bendigo Racecourse that will save 33,000 litres of water per day. Using a mixture of sand, polymer fibre and wax binder, the track (developed in-house by Racing Victoria) requires no water to maintain a condition that is safe for training horses.

### **Shell**

Shell's Geelong Refinery is saving more than 100 million litres of water a year through its \$12 million Water Master Plan Project, which includes the re-use of water in the manufacturing process, the collection and treatment of stormwater, and the involvement of Shell employees in water conservation projects.

### **State Netball and Hockey Centre**

The State Netball and Hockey Centre will water the hockey pitches with rainwater and recycled water instead of drinking water. The projected water saving of 19 million litres a year represents a 78 per cent reduction in water usage.

### **Tatura Milk Industries**

This project involves recycling and re-using approximately 51 million litres of drinking water used for cooling purposes within the dairy manufacture process at the Tatura Milk Industry dairy processing plant.

### **Western Health**

Western Health – which manages hospitals in the western suburbs of Melbourne – plans to save up to 12 million litres of drinking water a year by re-using water used for steriliser pressure pumps for toilet flushing.

### **Bendigo Bank**

Bendigo Bank's new corporate headquarters will save 4.5 million litres of drinking water a year by using greywater for toilet flushing and harvested rainwater to water gardens.

### **Hotel, Motel and Accommodation Association of Victoria**

Hotel, Motel and Accommodation Association of Victoria (HMAA) is conducting a pilot program in eight motels across regional Victoria to develop a best-practice water conservation guide for Victoria's 500 regional accommodation operators.

### **Melbourne Aquarium**

The Melbourne Aquarium has implemented water saving measures that will see 2.6 million litres of water recycled every year and salt discharge to the sewer reduced by over 100 tonnes a year. The Aquarium has also

implemented a water conservation education program that will reach over 70,000 school children each year.

### **Frankston City Council**

With the help of a Smart Water Fund grant, Frankston City Council has implemented sustainable water use practices at two aquatic recreation centres, saving up to 16 million litres at each centre per year.

**If you have a great water saving story to share, send an email to [ourwater@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:ourwater@dse.vic.gov.au)**



# But there's still more that business- **and all of us** - can do.

Victorian businesses and householders are doing a great job saving water. But we can't afford to rest on our laurels. Every business can use less water by installing dual-flush toilets, turning off taps and installing hot water recirculators to reduce water use when washing up. And all householders can take shorter showers and find dozens of other small ways to save large amounts of water. In the end, water is everyone's responsibility. We all need the water; we all need to save it. And together, we're doing it.

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