

SAVING WATER



MONARCH PARTNERSHIP

Utilities simplified

Introduction

Did you know?

58 bathtubs of water are needed to make the food and items each of us buys every day? And that 13 tons of water were needed to make each of our smartphones? Exorbitant water usage is happening even in processes where we least expect it. This makes it even more crucial to make savings where we can in the office and around the home, benefiting both our wallets and our planet.

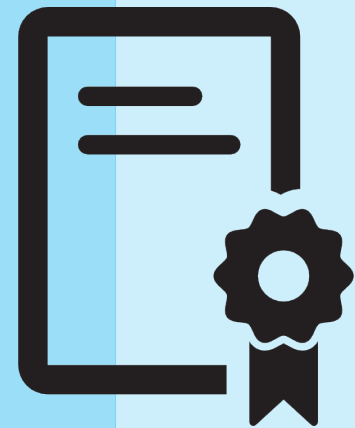
As providers of sustainability, waste, water and energy management services, we deliver monitoring and targeting services to help our clients streamline their energy usage and become more sustainable. A big part of this is focusing in on water consumption and working together to reduce this, so we have created this guide to provide advice on the matter.

Why is saving water so important?

The average person in the UK uses **150 litres of water a day**, be that for washing, cooking, or cleaning. Our world's population is constantly growing and this, combined with unstable weather patterns, means that increasing pressure is being placed on Earth's natural resources. Of all the water on our planet, 97.5% is in oceans and glaciers, and therefore cannot be utilised by humans, meaning that just 2.5% is available for our use.

We're using up fresh water supplies faster than ever before and, even though you might not think it, our water usage also heavily impacts overall energy consumption. Water is treated and cleaned once before it reaches the tap, and again before it is returned to the environment. Similarly, energy efficiency labels on white goods are actually based on their electricity usage, rather than the amount of water they use. The two are linked more closely than we might realise at first, so reducing our water consumption is a great way to save energy, and vice versa.





The Planet Mark™

At the beginning of the year we became a fully-certified organisation with The Planet Mark™, an internationally-recognised and trusted sustainability certification programme. The programme recognises commitment to continuous improvement in sustainability and carbon reduction, also focusing on minimising water usage. Through rigorous carbon footprint measuring and reporting, The Planet Mark™ provides assurance that the company is proactively addressing its environmental impacts.

We can certify you

As part of our certification we now have the power to certify others, as well as helping them achieve great savings and advancements towards sustainability. We can award Housing Associations, Local Authorities, schools, NHS Trusts, and commercial companies with the accreditation if they pledge to reduce their carbon footprint.

We will provide support and advice at every stage of the process, including full data collation and verification, carbon footprint calculations and stakeholder engagement. What's more, with our expertise in energy, water, and waste management, our team is able to quickly identify efficiency measures and sustainability initiatives to secure demonstrable carbon savings and annual recertification.

A 3-stage approach towards established sustainability

As a Planet Mark™ certified organisation, we focus on three key stages in our approach towards sustainability in order to reduce our environmental impacts year-on-year while continuing to offer new services and projects to customers.

- Measure – our carbon footprint to receive the Planet Mark™ certificate and report
- Engage – our senior management, Relationship Managers, energy auditors and stakeholders participating in sustainability actions
- Communicate – our sustainability progress to customers and wider audiences through The Planet Mark™ networks.



eden project

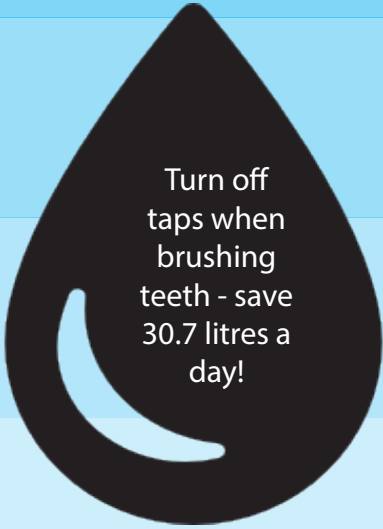
www.theplanetmark.com

The impact of deregulation

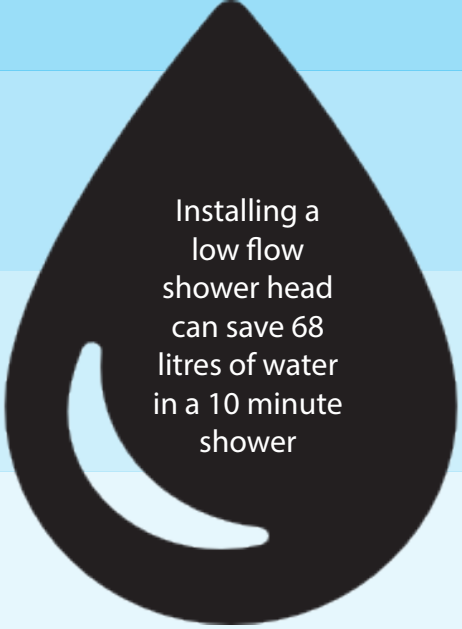
The commercial water industry was deregulated in April 2017, promoting competitive water and sewerage charges across suppliers, while increasing consumer choice for businesses. In theory, this should have led to more flexible deals and tariffs, however water prices still continue to soar.

Some research suggests that, since 2003, the average water bill has increased by at least 80%. This massive surge in price gives us all the more reason to watch our water usage, not least to benefit the environment too.


Making small changes around the home can have a big impact on your water bill, while looking after the planet at the same time. Here are some of the most effective ways to slash your water consumption around the house.




Turn off taps when brushing teeth - save 30.7 litres a day!



Installing a low flow shower head can save 68 litres of water in a 10 minute shower



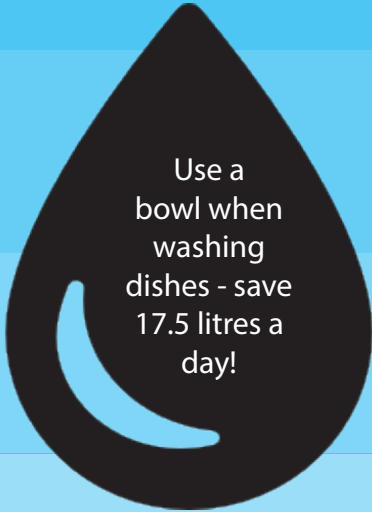
Use a full load in the dishwasher - save 3.8 litres a day




Invest in a water butt and collect rainwater to water your plants with



Check for leaks - 3 billion litres of water are wasted in England & Wales each day from leaks



Use a bowl when washing dishes - save 17.5 litres a day!



Take showers shorter than 4 minutes - save 17 litres a day



Saving water at home

For further information on reducing your water consumption, contact us at:

savings@monarchpartnership.co.uk

Government Legislation

Anti-Pollution Works Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/1006)

The Environment Agency can serve an Anti-Pollution Works Notice on a company if they perceive that an activity is causing or may cause pollution to controlled waters.

Water Industry Act 1999 s.85

Making it an offence to “knowingly permit”, or through “lack of action” cause the pollution of controlled waters i.e. surface water gullies, watercourses and ground water.

Water Resources Act 1991 s.86

Making it an offence to cause or knowingly permit any matter than other trade effluent to enter controlled water by discharge from a drain or sewer.

Water Resources Act 1991 s.160 as amended by the Environment Act 1995

The Environment Agency can serve “works notices” where it appears that any poisonous or polluting matter is likely to enter any controlled waters. This may include the provision of a bund wall around above-ground storage tanks even though no pollution has yet been caused.

Water Resources Act 1991 s.161 as amended by the Environment Act 1995

The Environment Agency can carry out any works or operations to prevent the pollution of controlled waters, or restore such waters after pollution.

Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.73

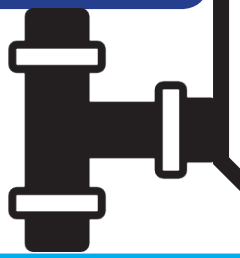
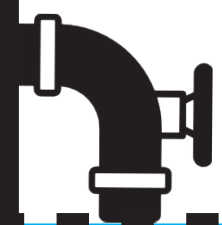
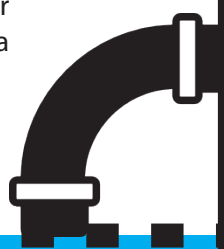
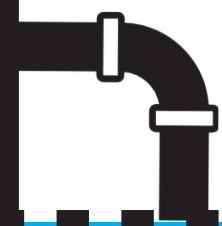
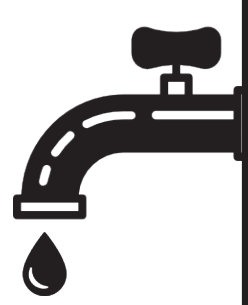
Providing for civil liability in the case of damage caused to water by waste deposits.

Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.81

Allowing private individuals to bring action against polluters.

Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999

Set legal requirements for the design, installation, operation and maintenance of plumbing systems and water-using appliances. They have a specific purpose to prevent misuse, waste or incorrect measurement of water and, most importantly, to prevent contamination of drinking water.



Commit to saving water

Introduce a responsible water use programme in your business and ensure that all staff are aware of simple changes to be made going forward. Consider incentives to engage employees and to increase your success margins.



Nominating a person within each department to lead the programme and push these changes through will make employees feel even more involved and create a sense of responsibility.

Efficient equipment

Monarch Explains

As manufacturers become more conscious of the environment and ways in which we need to look after our planet, an increasing number of new appliances are designed to be more water-efficient.

Purchasing these for your business can help reduce your water and energy bills and contribute to your water-saving commitments.



Get a water audit

Make sure you're aware of how much water you use as a company and where your biggest areas of consumption are. Our auditing services can help identify leaks and wasted water on your premises, helping to reduce your bills. Keep an eye out for any usually high water bills as this could be a sign of a leak on your property.

Invest in low-flow devices

There are so many devices on the market which can be used to reduce the water flow to toilets and taps on your business premises.

Installing these can almost halve the amount of water coming from a faucet and can more than halve the amount of water used to flush a toilet. This is a quick way to reduce your water consumption and bills!

Targets & goals



We can work with you to create targets for reduced water consumption, and then monitor your progress towards these together.

Comparing your monthly, quarterly or yearly bills allows us to track your journey and identify areas to improve on.



Employee education

An important way of making sure all of these steps are implemented is to make sure all employees are educated about the benefits of responsible water use.

Holding workshops and information days can really highlight how small changes make a big difference.



Less than 1% of Earth's water is drinkable

The average toilet uses 8 litres of water to flush

30% of fresh water is in the ground

68.7% of Earth's fresh water is trapped in glaciers

70% of Earth's water is used in agriculture



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