

There are many good reasons why conserving water should be a priority for tourism operators. Some of the main benefits are:

For businesses

- Save on water and sewage disposal costs
- Save on energy costs (through reducing appliance and hot water use)
- Enhance a business's reputation by being proactive in protecting the environment
- Inspiring staff and clients to reduce their water consumption at home
- Demonstrate that the business is complying with current water restrictions

For the environment

- Reduce demand on drinking water supplies and minimise the need to build new dams
- Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the transfer and treatment of water and sewage
- Provide for larger environmental flows for our creeks and rivers
- Prevent further animal and plant extinction
- Ensure that there is enough water for the future needs of plants, animals and people

Water management tips for tourism

Sector	Water management measures
<p>Accommodation and Hospitality</p>	<p>No cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and training of staff in water conservation strategies • Raise awareness of consumers • Institution of a leak detection program, implementation of monitoring on a regular basis • Preventative maintenance of toilets, showerheads etc. • Change in kitchen practices (i.e. no washing vegetables under running water) • Reasonable irrigation (i.e. turning system off when raining, no irrigation in the middle of the day) • Install towel-washing cards in guest bathrooms, giving guests the option of re-using bath towels rather than having them washed daily <p>Low cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of tap flow regulators, restrictors, aerators on faucets • Installation of water-efficient showerheads (using around 10 litres per minute) • Reduce water pressure by installing a pressure reducing valve on the connection to the water main • Installation of foot pedal valves in kitchen sinks to allow efficient water use <p>Long term measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting of rain water (installation of tanks) to use for irrigation or similar • Recycle and use grey water • Use drought resistant plants for gardens • Conversion to dual flush toilets • Purchase of products with efficient water labels

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Retail	<p>No cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and training of staff in water conservation strategies • Institution of a leak detection program, implementation of monitoring on a regular basis <p>Low cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of tap flow regulators, restrictors, aerators on faucets <p>Long term measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting of rain water (installation of tanks) to use for irrigation or similar <p>Recycle and use grey water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversion to dual flush toilets • Purchase of products with efficient water labels
Transport	<p>No cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and training of staff in water conservation strategies • Institution of a leak detection program, implementation of monitoring on a regular basis <p>Low cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of tap flow regulators, restrictors, aerators on faucets • Installation of water-efficient showerheads (using around 10 litres per minute) <p>Long term measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting of rain water (installation of tanks) to use for irrigation or similar • Recycle and use grey water • Conversion to dual flush toilets • Purchase of products with efficient water labels
Water management tips for Tours	<p>No cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and training of staff in water conservation strategies • Institution of a leak detection program, implementation of monitoring on a regular basis <p>Low cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of tap flow regulators, restrictors, aerators on faucets <p>Long term measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting of rain water (installation of tanks) to use for irrigation or similar • Recycle and use grey water • Conversion to dual flush toilets • Purchase of products with efficient water labels
Attractions	<p>No cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and training of staff in water conservation strategies • Institution of a leak detection program, implementation of monitoring on a regular basis <p>Low cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of tap flow regulators, restrictors, aerators on faucets <p>Long term measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting of rain water (installation of tanks) to use for irrigation or similar • Recycle and use grey water • Use drought resistant plants, reasonable gardening • Conversion to dual flush toilets • Purchase of products with efficient water labels

Useful Links:

Savewater! (Australia)

A leading source on water conservation providing a number of business tips that can assist operators in saving money as well as water. Case studies of operations in the hospitality and wine industries are also provided.

<http://www.savewater.com.au>

GreenBiz.com

A useful resource centre on business, the environment, and the bottom line. Refer to section on Water Conservation.

<http://www.greenbiz.com/>

Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (Australia)

Aims to achieve significant savings in both water and energy bills from the use of more efficient water fittings and appliances including washing machines, showers and toilets.

<http://www.waterrating.gov.au/>

Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme

Provides useful advice for choosing water savings devices

<http://www.waterrating.gov.au>

Sydney Water's Every Drop Counts Program for Businesses:

Focuses on the ways that businesses can save potable water. Over 230 businesses have joined the scheme since 2001, saving a combined 15 million litres of water per day.

<http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SavingWater/InYourBusiness/Hotels.cfm>

Water Efficiency, USA

A website operated by the US Environmental Protection Agency, providing useful information on how to implement water efficiency measures.

<http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/waterefficiency.html>

City West Water Conservations Solutions (Victoria, Australia)

Tips for saving water

www.citywestwater.com.au

Enviro-friendly products

Provides advice to consumers, developers, builders, architects, designers and tradespeople on methods and products that will help you to conserve, collect and recycle water.

<http://www.enviro-friendly.com>

In addition to the tips provided throughout this website, your local plumber should be able to provide advice on ways to reduce your water use and on appliances that are water efficient. Government authorities and councils often run campaigns on conserving water so also try contacting your local authority to obtain the information they have.