



# **Save water - save money**

## **Drivers and incentives for water efficiency**



# Drivers behind water efficiency

## **Economic profitability**

- Reduced water and sewerage costs
- Reduced energy costs
- Improved image and new market opportunities

## **Corporate social responsibility**

- Public image
- Good employer

## **Environmental management systems**

- The 'greening' of business
- Market opportunities



# Drivers behind water efficiency

## **Water Regulations**

- The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 are government owned and enforced by the local water company.
- Legislate against water wastage, misuse and undue consumption of the water supply, providing a legal requirement for the careful and efficient use of water.
- WRAS ([www.wras.co.uk](http://www.wras.co.uk)), the water regulations advisory scheme is managed by WRc and provides advice on the principles of water regulations, encouraging their enforcement.



# Incentives for businesses 1

## Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme (ECA).

- Tax relief to businesses that invest in 'green technology'.
- Since 2001, businesses have been able to set the whole of their expenditure on qualifying equipment against their taxable profits.

## What equipment qualifies?

- The Water Technology List. Visit [www.eca-water.co.uk](http://www.eca-water.co.uk).
- The list covers a range of equipment that reduces water wastage including:
  - showers, taps, toilets, washing machines,
  - flow controllers, leakage detection equipment, meters and monitoring equipment,
  - rainwater harvesting equipment,
  - small scale slurry and sludge dewatering equipment,
  - efficient membrane filtration system.

# Incentives for businesses 2



## Who can claim ECAs?

- All businesses that pay UK corporation or income tax.
- Organisations that are not in the charge of tax, for example local authorities and schools, do not have taxable profits and cannot claim the tax relief.

## How useful are they?

- Dependent on making profit.
- Can reduce a tax bill by £7.50 for every £100 spent.

## How to claim ECAs?

- Check out the water technology list before investing in any equipment.
- You can claim the cost of the product, along with associated costs such as installation costs.
- Claim your ECA, as part of your normal tax return calculations.

# Services available



## Government led initiatives

- Envirowise- the Big Splash Campaign- [www.envirowise.gov.uk](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk)

## How can Thames Water help?

The Water Act 2003 places a duty to promote water conservation on Water Companies. Thames Water works in partnership with Richmond Council through Go Green Richmond upon Thames to promote water efficiency.

### Thames Water's 4-Step Plan

A self-audit pack for businesses, to enable them to

1. Calculate their water consumption
  2. Find & fix leaks
  3. Reduce their water consumption
  4. Educate water users within their organisation
- **Website** <http://www.thameswater.co.uk/waterwise>
  - Free water efficiency **audits** commissioned by Thames Water for customers looking at potable water used by companies.

# Easy measures



## **Fitting/maintaining urinal controls - a key water efficiency measure**

- For an office based site, an unmanaged cistern, flushing 4 times an hour, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year could use 315.36m<sup>3</sup>/annum.
- Preventing the urinal from flushing during periods of inactivity can reduce consumption to 36.43 m<sup>3</sup>/annum, a saving of 278.93m<sup>3</sup> a year, a financial saving of £443 a year.

## **Retrofitting cistern devices**

- Toilet cisterns installed in last ten years – 4-6 litres per flush. No device needed.
- Toilet cisterns flushing 6-9 litres – Save-a-flush saves one litre per flush.
- Toilet cisterns flushing 9 litres and above – Hippo saves up to three litres per flush.

## **Other resources**

- Posters and stickers for buildings.
- Advice on running internal water awareness campaigns.
- Resources for staff.

# Way ahead

