

## Case Study

# Eton College

Project enables water savings of 20%

### Background

For both environmental and financial reasons, Eton College decided to undertake an audit of its water usage. This water efficiency project was fully supported by management and staff. Eton College started with a complete review of water usage across the entire college estate with a view to introducing organisation-wide water management and water efficiency initiatives.

The objectives of the project were:



- ▶ To introduce environmental and cost-saving improvements
- ▶ To educate all building users in the efficient use of water
- ▶ To create a water management plan
- ▶ To identify efficiencies and thereby reduce water demand within the Eton College estate
- ▶ To reduce the sewerage output of the buildings
- ▶ To reduce the carbon dioxide emissions related to the delivery of water to the campus

The members of staff at Eton College believe that learning about and caring for the environment is a key factor in a student's education and that the best way to emphasise its importance is to lead by example.

When planning this project, the team made the following considerations:

- ▶ That the college is located in an area of outstanding natural beauty and that all organisations and people residing there owe the community and immediate surroundings a duty of care.
- ▶ That reduction of water consumption and effluent output offers an immediate benefit to the environment by reducing the requirement to exploit scarce natural resources and by reducing carbon dioxide and other emissions that are caused by the purification, supply and disposal process.

## Measuring and Targeting the Problem

The initial audit of the College detailed the water consumption for each individual building or area and identified the potential for improvements in water efficiency.

Innovative technology, designed to reduce water consumption, was then installed in relevant areas across the campus, including toilets and showers. These measures also included state-of-the-art monitoring and targeting of the Water Efficiency Project and the resulting data allowed Eton College to create a lifecycle maintenance strategy to ensure that the efficiency savings are continually achieved.

The water efficiency project was undertaken in conjunction with experienced energy & water efficiency company and government framework contractor, ADSM. Eton College required no capital investment for the this project and ADSM only receives remuneration during the contract period by achieving water savings on the fiscal water meters.

Ian Mellor, the college's bursar, said, *"What particularly attracted us to ADSM, compared with other firms, was that their contract was 100% performance-based and represented a risk-free option for the college, should no saving be achieved. It also provided the vehicle to enable us to fast-track substantial water savings. The company's partnership approach and industry credentials were further important factors when we took the decision to appoint them."*

## Future Plans

The water efficiency project at Eton College will be ongoing and subject to continuous improvement.

Future plans include the implementation of other water efficiency and environmental sustainability and conservation initiatives and payback measures, such as rainwater harvesting schemes.

There will also be ongoing education of management, staff and pupils into the environmental and cost-saving benefits of water efficiency.



## Water-Saving Benefits

The benefits of the project were immediately apparent from both an environmental and a financial perspective. In the first year, there was a reduction in total water usage of 67,720m<sup>3</sup>, which resulted in a cost saving of 20% of the entire college water bill. The college had no initial outlay - savings on the water accounts were achieved as soon as the project started.

For the Eton College water efficiency project, ADSM provided a full monitoring and evaluation service via its bureau. This included bill validation and the production of performance reports for each of the sites where water efficiency measures had been implemented. The maintenance department instigated a monthly meter reading program for all of the 200+ water meters on the site. These readings were then checked against the water supplier invoices and quantified to ensure accuracy and to provide early warnings of any potential leaks or equipment faults. Quarterly progress meetings were held between ADSM and Eton College to track performance of the water efficiency project and to promote continuous improvement.

### Summary of Savings

Annual Consumption Before Project	Annual Consumption After Introduction of Water-Saving Measures	Savings
340,188m <sup>3</sup>	272,468m <sup>3</sup>	£150,000

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