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Leveraging Public Sector Buying Power


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Case Study

Derby University

University achieves major reductions in its water consumption within months



Background

In 2001 the University of Derby had around 20 separate tutorial buildings and halls of residence which were serviced by 40 different water accounts covering 50 water meters. Their annual water bill was in excess of £285,000.

By collating and analysing all of their water usage data and comparing this to national benchmark information, ADSM was able to show the University of Derby that they were over consuming water compared to the national average.

Ten of its largest campuses signed up to a Water Services Contract with ADSM to implement action plans to evaluate their water usage and make recommendations for conserving water and thus reducing their costs.

Kedleston Consumption Halved

Work started on site at the University's Kedleston Road campus in November 2001.

By implementing the University's tailor-made water efficiency plan, installing appropriate water saving technologies, and instigating other recommended water saving measures, just five months later the ADSM project team had achieved a reduction of over 50% in water consumption.

University officials were naturally delighted and any initial reservations that they had initially were quickly dispelled.



Mrs Jo Seabrook, Facilities Manager, explained :

“Although in the initial stages I was concerned it was just another information gathering exercise, linking up with ADSM has certainly proved pro-active. We have been able to make value judgements about where to start saving on our water consumption levels and indeed we are now doing this.

A comprehensive survey resulted in a number of remedial measures being put in place, the elimination of background losses and ongoing maintenance and service. We saw a significant reduction in our night time wastage immediately. I think this project has been beneficial in so many ways to the University but mainly because it follows through with giving real help rather than just a report.”

High Peak, Low Projections

Following the success of the Kedleston Road campus, the project team then began work at the University's catering college, housed in a 1950s-built, former Army premises. The complex consists of several buildings, incorporating nine kitchens, a restaurant, bar, sports hall and gym, totalling 16,362m² of floor space. All are open to the public and are in constant use.

ADSM's consultancy report assessed current water performance in terms of amenity (quality of supply) and efficiency (a better service for less). As a result, potential savings of over 47,000m³ of water per annum were identified, representing a potential reduction of over £45,000 in annual water charges.



Savings to Date

Since Derby University joined the project, savings of £270,000 have been achieved.

Neil Kitchen, OGCbuying.solutions' Watermark Project Leader, said:

“The work carried out at the University of Derby is a fine example of how Watermark helps to reduce bills and improve the quality of water supply – a real double boost for participating organisations”.

Summary of Savings - Year on Year

32%