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Leveraging Public Sector Buying Power


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Case Study

Watford Borough Council

Water Efficiency Plan



Background

Watford Borough Council in Hertfordshire has a whole host of water-consuming sites across its region, including council buildings, leisure facilities, swimming pools, community centres, colleges, council housing and accommodation for the elderly.

Key needs and requirements

Watford Borough Council approached ADSM in 2002 because they felt that their water consumption was higher than was necessary and their water bills were excessive and they wanted ADSM to investigate and advise. They were looking for suggested ways to reduce their overall water consumption and thereby reduce their costs, and help meet their sustainability targets.

Measuring and Targeting the Problem

ADSM collated and analysed the data from Watford Council's annual water usage and compared this to its national benchmark information under the Watermark scheme. The comparison showed that there was indeed room for some dramatic water savings.

Benefits of using the Water Services Contract

Watford Borough Council selected 17 key over-consuming sites - including council buildings, leisure facilities and accommodation for the elderly - and signed up for a comprehensive water efficiency plan under ADSM's Water Services Contract, which was tailored to the Borough's specific requirements.

ADSM's Water Services Contract comprises the following for Watford Borough Council:

- ▶ Initial survey of each participating site
- ▶ Installation of water-saving technology
- ▶ Mains distribution replacement or repairs, where viable
- ▶ Annual maintenance of water-saving devices
- ▶ Tariff and water bill validation service
- ▶ Monitoring for unusual water consumption activity
- ▶ Monthly Key Performance Indicator report for each site
- ▶ Measured savings versus targeted savings reporting
- ▶ A Help Desk service
- ▶ Environmental Certification



Water Leak and Repair Services

In addition to the Water Services Contract, ADSM also provides Watford Borough Council with a fast-response leak detection and repair service for their entire portfolio of buildings across the entire Borough, including council housing.

Water-Saving Benefits

In the first year under the Water Services Contract, Watford Borough Council witnessed a reduction in water consumption of 13,169m³, equating to 22% of its annual bill. Five of the sites reduced water consumption by over 50%.

Environmental and Cost Benefits

Watford Council has also benefited its residents, its businesses and the environment by embracing water efficiencies and realising both water and cost savings.

Going Forward

ADSM continues to work with Watford Borough Council to ensure that any new water saving opportunities is embraced; water saving targets continue to be realised, and Watford Council is able to meet Best Value performance.

“ADSM works constantly to deliver innovative solutions to the Borough, which enable us to reduce substantially our water consumption and costs. The Reports that we receive each month provide my department with the management information that we need for submission to our annual sustainability report. We are pleased to be working in partnership with ADSM.”

Energy Manager, Watford Council



Summary of Savings - Year on Year

22%