

SWIG Awards 2013

The SWIG Awards 2013 are free to enter. Follow the steps outlined below:

- 1) Complete the contact details below.
- 2) Tick the category which is most appropriate for your submission.
- 3) Submit your application form with your A4 project overview.

Contact name: Chris Falconer			
Job title: Water Efficiency Advisor			
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Type of business: Water provider			
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Project start date: March 2011		Project end date: Ongoing	
Project name: Water A.C.E.S			
Please tick which category are you applying for (one entry form for each submission):			
Domestic building (new build)		Domestic building (retrofit)	
Non-domestic building (new build)	X	Non-domestic building (retrofit)	
Communication		Product	
Open space and agriculture		International projects	
Not sure which category suits you product? Tick here and we will identify a sector.			
Where did you hear about the SWIG Awards? Email.			

Email to: info@sustainablewater.org.uk

Receipt of your entry will be acknowledged

Deadline for entries: 30 September 2013

Water A.C.E.S

What? Through our Water A.C.E.S (Auditing Councils in Essex and Suffolk) initiative, Essex & Suffolk Water (ESW) work in partnership with the local authorities within our supply area to ensure their buildings are as water efficient as possible. This is achieved through altering our typical domestic retrofit methodology, tailoring the processes to fit the commercial environment. First and foremost we determine the applicability of, and install, a wide range of water saving devices free of charge. The devices include; the ecoBETA, a device which converts a standard single-flush siphon valve into a dual flush by interrupting the vacuum created when the toilet is flushed. A Save-a-flush cistern displacement device, a small bag filled with crystals which expands to displace one litre of water when submerged. Tap and shower aerators which infuse air into the flow of water, replicating the feel of a strong flow rate despite using considerably less water. Urinal controls which regulate flushing either through the use of a motion sensor or pre-determined timed controls. Finally, service valves which are altered or installed to control basin flow rates.



Why? We first began Water A.C.E.S in March 2011 after the success of a standalone project to make a local town hall water efficient. This project was carried out to contribute to ESW's water efficiency target, which requires us to demonstrate a reduction in our customer's per capita consumption through water efficiency efforts. However, we quickly realised that this retrofit demonstrated how beneficial water efficiency could be to borough, district and county councils, not just in terms of water savings, but also monetary savings in times of financial hardship. It is for this reason that we continued to expand the project far above what was required to achieve our target, ensuring we were able to help as many local authorities as possible. We determined that the series of products offered were best suited to the council buildings for the following reasons. Firstly, they were non-intrusive. Each device is easily retrofit on to numerous types of existing fittings, providing the option to revert the appliance back to its previous state in the unlikely event of a problem. Not only does this save initial installation costs, it insures the council are not left with costly maintenance issues in the future. The devices are all robust enough to handle constant usage considering the large quantity of employees who will be using them. Finally, all devices have been selected after numerous tests and trials, carried out both internally within ESW and industry wide.

How? Water A.C.E.S has considerable benefits through water and financial savings, both of which are discussed in detail later on. However, the project also helps to bring environmental consideration to the fore front of employee's (and often the public's) minds. This is achieved through the promotional stalls and literature we provide alongside the installation of products. As touched upon previously, all devices are simple retrofits and require minimal maintenance. However, we train the council's internal maintenance teams so they the know how to operate each device properly to ensure their water usage is managed into the future. This is particularly important when considering service valves and urinal controls, as both these devices can loose their water saving potential should the operator lack the knowledge to choose the appropriate setting. In addition, we also ensure savings are sustained into the future through monitoring post water usage so that we can identify any patterns of variance and work with the council to rectify them. We also recognise the importance of engaging with employees at each of the councils we work with. We have run a series of water efficiency events which have been key to ensuring that employees are both aware of the work we have completed in collaboration with the council and also aware of how they can reduce their water consumption at home.

How Much? Water A.C.E.S has saved a substantial quantity of water, with the collective total currently at 27.946m³ per day. This total is broken down to the following contributions from six separate local authorities. Maldon District Council has saved 6.063m³ per day, Castle Point Borough Council 3.553m³, Chelmsford City Council 4.692m³, Waveney District Council 5.385m³, Brentwood Borough Council 2.157m³ and finally Essex County Council with a saving of 6.097m³ per day. Of course, this high level of water savings provides a similarly high economic saving with a collective daily saving of £84.81 per day across the six councils (based upon the 2013/14 Essex & Suffolk Water water rate and Anglian Water's sewage rate), resulting in a yearly saving of £30,955.25. All work associated with Water A.C.E.S is completed free of charge, and all savings are passed on directly to the customer. However, for informational purposes, if the councils would have had to pay for the scheme, the total payback period across the entire project works out to be a minimal 171 days due to the low collective project cost of £14,497.31. It is estimated that the initiative is saving approximately 213 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year.