



## 'Getting Wise About Water - Water Efficiency 26th November 2009 Best Western Valley Hotel



Water may be costing your business more than you think. Few businesses identify water as a raw material that is paid for twice - to receive it and to take away the waste. Simple actions can lead to substantial savings that go straight to your company's bottom line. Cutting water costs is one of the easiest ways to increase profits. Adopting a systematic approach to reducing water use could cut your use by up to 30%.



### BESST Overview—Andy Whyte, BESST Chair

The event opened with a brief presentation from the BESST Chair on what BESST can offer. This included the new association between BESST and Business Link [click for more information](#). This included the new Environmental advisory service set up by Business Link to provide experts to carry out an expert diagnostic of resource efficiency within companies.

### Water Efficiency—Kate Davies, Envirowise

Kate Davies represented Envirowise by giving an overview of water efficiency and its benefits. She began by highlighting the cost of water and stress placed upon companies by rising water prices. By improving water efficiency a company can be more competitive and increase their survivability in the current climate. She concluded with practical tips and plans to implement to make the greatest savings quickly and easily.



### Lyreco Case Study—Sara Blain

Lyreco have recently completed a water audit of their factory and offices that was conducted by Envirowise. Sara Blain quality and environment coordinator gave a brief outline of what they achieved and presented a video case study. The video highlighted the areas of savings made including the fixing of a water leak and reducing the water pressure. These simple actions helped reduce the water bill by 10% saving £4,600 a year.



## Workshop

The main area of focus for this event was a practical workshop for the delegates participation. This was led by Andy Whyte and was divided into six areas which are detailed below:

- Creating a water efficiency plan
- Discussing the staff engagement activities you can implement
- Assessing available efficiency technology in an office scenario
- Understanding your water bill
- Assessing available efficiency technology in a manufacturing scenario
- Considerations regarding rainwater collection

Each of the six groups then fed back to the other delegates their findings and reasons for the actions they would take.



### Top 5 Water Efficiency Tips

#### Develop an action Plan

Focus efforts and prioritise actions

#### Get a site drainage plan and complete a walk round of your site

This will allow you to spot obvious areas of improvement

#### Enhance Capital Allowance Scheme Water List

Before you purchase any Water Efficiency Equipment check the Enhance Capital Allowance Scheme Water List as you may be eligible for funding

#### Check your water bill closely

Check meter is correct, are effluent charges correct, could there be a leak, correct tariff?

#### Engage Staff

Any technology implemented is only as good as the users – staff need to understand the technology and how to use it efficiently!



Useful tool for improving water efficiency:

#### Envirowise—Online Benchmarking Tool

Envirowise has some useful tools including an [Online Benchmarking](#) Tool which allows you to compare your water usage against other companies in your sector allowing you to gauge your performance against potential competitors.