



## Water and your office



### Introduction

Everybody seems to think that water is a renewable and abundant resource. However, this is not the case and the pressure we are putting on our water resource is increasing. In the UK we now use around 155 litres per day, that's 70% more water than we used 30 years ago. The amount of water available per person is already limited and it is likely to decrease unless we make changes and stop wasting our water.



### What is the problem?

The balance between water supply and water demand is delicate and being put under increased pressure.



#### INCREASED DEMAND:

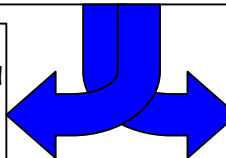
With a growing population, household size and affluence there is increased demand on water.

Government projections indicate an increase of 3.3 million households with population increasing by 2.8 million, all using large volumes of water.

#### DECREASING SUPPLY:

There is increasing evidence that our climate is changing and this could impact on the supply of water.

It is predicted that variability of rainfall will increase from year to year, with both drier and wetter years.



**SOLUTION:** We need to think about the amount of water we are using. By making small changes there can be big results in protecting this essential resource. We should conserve water because it is the right thing to do. Don't waste water just because it's not your bill. There are many opportunities within the office to save water - be innovative!

Water Consumption in Head Office Facilities



We are trying to save water in our Head Office buildings by fitting 'Hippos' in the Wolverhampton complex toilets. Help us to further reduce the quantity of water we use in offices.

### What can you do?

In an office you may not use large amounts of water like in building or manufacturing processes, but water is still being wasted. Here are a few tips to use your water supply more efficiently...

- ✓ One drip per second wastes around 4 litres of water per day. Report leaking taps (and other faults) immediately so that they can be fixed.
- ✓ Running the tap uses 10-14 litres of water in just 5 minutes. Turn off the tap fully as soon as you've finished.
- ✓ Store drinking water in the fridge; don't let the tap run while you are waiting for cold water.
- ✓ Washing a mug under a running tap uses around a litre of water, so 6 mugs use the same as a bowl of water. Try and wait until the sink is full of mugs before you wash up.
- ✓ If you have a dishwasher only wash when you have a full load.
- ✓ A third of your water use is flushed down the toilet. If possible get water saving devices fitted, see [www.hippo-the-watersaver.co.uk](http://www.hippo-the-watersaver.co.uk)
- ✓ Never pour water down the drain, it may have another use such as watering plants.

**Remember:** Always seek advice from your environmental advisor if you have any queries or problems.