

CONSERVING WATER ON THE MASSEY CAMPUSES

Water conservation is becoming increasingly important in New Zealand and there are lots of initiatives happening on-campus!

Recycled water

The new hockey pitch on the Manawatū campus includes two 30,000 litre water tanks to feed the sprinklers to keep the turf in top condition. This water will come from storm water and runoff, topped up from bore supply.

The water used to flush the toilets in the Albany library is also recycled water. This is collected as run-off water from the hard ground surfaces above and stored in an underground 15,000L water tank before being used.

Drinking fountains and bottle refilling stations

Drinking fountains and bottle filling stations are freely available for everyone to use, in multiple locations on each campus. The number of water stations was increased recently to reduce plastic bottle usage. The locations of the bottle filling stations can be found on the Massey University app.

Water conservation in our gardens

The gardens on our Manawatu campus are much admired. A variety of water conservation measures are used to keep these looking good, but which reduce the amount of water that they use. These include:

- Organic composts, mulch, wetting agents and water retention gels are added to soils to increase their water-holding capacity.
- Verti-draining is used to ensure deeper plant roots, so meaning that less watering is required.
- Treegators are also used to reduce the amount of water required.
- In times of water shortage, watering of newly planted trees and rare/exotic species is prioritized. Plants are also watered less often but for longer, to encourage deep roots.
- Automated water systems have been installed. These allow controlled application at night, so increasing absorption and reducing evaporation

Water usage

- Massey measures the amount of water that we use on each campus
- Massey also participates in the TEFMA benchmarking programme. This allows us to analyze water usage over time, and to compare our water usage to that of other universities in NZ and Australia
- A water management plan is currently being developed for the university

What can you do?

- Report any leaks to Facilities Management, including dripping taps or toilets
- Avoid taking long showers

Water management research

Water management is an active area of research at Massey University. Find out more here: https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/explore/research/water-management/water-management-research_home.cfm

