

Warburtons

Family Bakers

What We're Doing To Save Water

Warburtons signed up to the Federation House Commitment, the Food and Drink Federation's agreement to reduce the amount of water the industry uses, at the beginning of 2008.

Since then, we've published targets to measure the total amount of water we use in producing our products and make an absolute reduction of 20% in direct water use from our 2007 total by 2020. So how are we doing?

Building It Into The Business

By industry standards, we are not heavy water users, but we do understand how important it is for all of us to do what we can to reduce its use, minimise waste and increase recycling. So, with the help of FHC administrators, Envirowise, we are aiming to build water conservation into every area of our business.

Doing The Housekeeping

We spent what remained of 2008 'doing the basics' - analysing how much water came into our bakeries and how much went out again as waste. We looked at what was used where; how much was essential to our production processes and how much we were using in other areas, where savings could be made. In all 14 of our bakeries, we fitted new mains and sub-meters - that's around 120 in total - and now all significant water usage is measured and monitored every week. 2009 saw us concentrating on 'good housekeeping', tracking down and fixing leaks, getting rid of hoses, introducing 'smart' taps for hand washing and reducing the size of the flush in our WCs. (It really makes a difference).

Stepping Up a Gear

We've set up volunteer 'Green Teams' throughout the business whose job it is to spot and create opportunities for water and energy savings, as well as delivering 'action plans' and trying to get everyone else involved. We are also making sure that we share best practice in the business and with other companies.

So at a time when we're glad to say that our business is growing rapidly, we have nevertheless managed to make modest reductions in our water use. Starting now, we're aiming to step up a gear. Currently, we are exploring the practicalities of collecting rainwater from our roof space for non-food related uses, such as cleaning vehicles, breadbaskets and feeding our boilers, which could lead to big savings. We'll also be continuing to work with the FHC and Envirowise to help us make the most of the environmental and commercial opportunities that saving water presents and progress will be reported here, on the site.