

## Water use

<b>Category:</b>	Gardens and Site	<b>Version:</b>	1
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	01-11-08	<b>Contact:</b>	Green Team Coordinator

### Purpose

To provide guidance on using water efficiently and responsibly indoors and outdoors at Northey Street City Farm. Managing water is a basic principle of environmental sustainability and its importance has been highlighted over the past decade due to drought and associated water shortages. The Farm mostly uses tank water collected from runoff and is therefore well within the Brisbane City Council's water allocation budget, enabling The Farm to be a good community role model.

### Policy

1. Follow permaculture principles, i.e., minimise outdoor water use by using natural water conservation systems such as mulching, corrugation beds, shading, planting low water demand plants, hydro-zoning, soil building, composting, land forming and positioning plants to receive their most efficient amount of sun.

### Procedures

1. As part of The Farm's Water Efficiency Management Plan, all taps and tanks are checked annually by the Green Team for damage or wear and tear that could waste water, e.g., tap leaks. Rainfall on The Farm is monitored by the Nursery staff, which also keeps an eye on the water meters for any discrepancies in usage.
2. No hosing down paving, ute's or other general cleaning that could be done with a broom, or bucket and sponge.
3. As much water as possible is harvested to fill onsite tanks. The budgeting and procurement of more water tanks is a high priority. The solar pump is used to reticulate water around the property.
4. All grey water is recycled either into tanks or directly into the gardens, e.g., after hand-washing pots, this water is diverted back into the Nursery.
5. All watering on the property is done 'deeply'. This is more effective for the plants as the water reaches the root system, and prevents excessive evaporation that occurs with shallow, surface watering.
6. The Farm strives to be an example of sustainable living in the city. The biggest project is the installation of a Biolytics toilet, which saves roughly 5000 litres of water annually and in addition, creates quality compost. Other water wise strategies include the installation of only National AAA Standard, or better, water fittings and taps that reduce water flow rates and water wasting leaks.
7. Where appropriate, new tree species and plants should be selected according to site hydro-zones.
8. Tap handles are removed from garden taps to discourage over use and unauthorised use.
9. Please refer to the Water Efficiency Management Plan, which is site-specific, for further information.

