

Brewery has a long standing commitment to environmental responsibility

Water Corporation through its Key Customer Relationship Management program (KCRM) has developed a range of partnering initiatives with key customers aimed at improving their water management process.

The Swan Brewery is one of the selected customers to take part in the KCRM program that includes diagnostic sessions and ongoing support.

As a major user of water and energy and a producer of waste and wastewater, the Swan Brewery has implemented a number of production initiatives to improve its environmental and business performances.

Founded in 1857, the company has been part of the Lion Nathan group since 1992. It has been operating from its Canning Vale plant since 1979 with a capacity to produce up to 300 million litres of beer per year in packaged and bulk form.

Brewery Water and Environmental Technologist Andrew Chua says the business currently uses around 7 litres of water for every litre of beer produced at the site. This is considered good practice for a brewery of its age, design and tank utilisation.

"Both Swan and Lion-Nathan are committed to sustainable environmental management and we have worked hard to improve water-use efficiencies, as well as wastewater reuse outcomes, with all product waste treated on site," Andrew said.

'We also treat the brewery's wastewater onsite and use it to irrigate the brewery lawns and gardens, freeing up local sewer capacity,' he said.

Swan's total water use in 2005 was 563,000 kL, down from 644,000kL in 2002 and this reduction is continuing into 2007.

In 2001 the company entered a joint venture with Water Corporation for the installation of a reverse osmosis plant to ensure the consistency of brewery water was not affected by water supplied from different Water Corporation sources.

Andrew said a cross-functional Waterwise Team was formed to focus exclusively on water efficiencies. One of these innovative solutions has been an intranet website to record, monitor and report all water related issues.

"An environmental assistance card is included in the orientation package of all new employees to ensure they recognise the corporate culture and the importance we place on water conservation and the environment," he said.

"To this end, Swan has linked water use key performance indicators to key water user's annual bonuses. Reducing site water use is an integral part of the site business plan."

Water management audit

In the interest of best management practices, Swan Brewery completed the One-2-Five® water management audit with the Water Corporation in 2005. Since then it has made impressive progress in water conservation, consistently ranking in the top 10 best corporate performers.

"The audit was extremely thorough and we systematically looked at water usage throughout the entire factory," Andrew said.

"The result showed us that in most areas we were above average in water management, with only a few areas left to tighten up, not so much for the dollars and cents, but because saving water is the smart and responsible thing to do."

Strategies implemented by the Swan Waterwise Team include the purchase of an ultrasonic meter to identify possible water leakages and better understand the brewery's mains water usage. Water is also recovered from a number of areas in the brewery and reused in the evaporative condensers and cooling

tower, resulting in a savings from these systems of 60,000kL/year.

Future initiatives

Andrew says the Brewery's continued goal is to reduce the amount of water used per litre of beer produced to ensure Swan operates in line with world's best practice.



Left to right:

Lee Pearson, Water Corporation Key Customer Relationship Manager and Andrew Chua, Swan Brewery Water and Environmental Technologist.



For more information on being Waterwise in your business, please visit www.watercorporation.com.au or contact Lee Pearson on (08) 9420 2649.