



WE CAN

Water Efficiency & Conservation Network
WATER NEW ZEALAND

WECAN Group Newsletter

The Water New Zealand Water Efficiency & Conservation Network Group quarterly e-Newsletter

Kia ora koutou,

It's been a wet winter across the motu. While for many New Zealanders, soggy lawns mean water efficiency is quickly forgotten, the WeCAN (the Water efficiency Conservation Network) has been keeping it front of mind.

Our winter newsletter brings you a roundup of our activity and upcoming events you can get involved in. To find out more about the WECAN Group check out their [website](#)

RESIDENTIAL WATER USE IN NEW ZEALAND

Completion of a residential end use study has provided, for the first time, a national picture of how water is being used in New Zealand homes. In this ambitious project, BRANZ, supported by 29 councils, Water New Zealand and the University of Auckland, has analysed water use at 66 households around the motu.

High resolution water metering data was collected at 10-second intervals, across a year and complemented with an occupant survey and a detailed inventory of water-using appliances and fittings. The study provides;

- a summary of overall usage
- disaggregation of end use water
- annual and diurnal variations
- comparison of usage across metered and unmetered households
- minimum night flows and leakage

On 2nd August, Dr Colin Whittaker of University of Auckland and Andrew Pollard of BRANZ will host a webinar providing an overview. [Registrations available here.](#)

Project reports are available at the following links:

[University of Auckland, Data analysis](#)

[BRANZ, Project overview](#)



WHAT'S NEW

**RESIDENTIAL WATER USE
IN NEW ZEALAND**

**STEP UP IN METER READS
IN CHRISTCHURCH
UNCOVERS WATER
SAVING OPPORTUNITIES**

**WATER EFFICIENT
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

**WATERCARES CITIZEN
ASSEMBLY**

**JOIN US AT FOR OUR 2022
CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

**WATERLOSS GUIDELINES
WORKSHOP**

STEP UP IN METER READS IN CHRISTCHURCH UNCOVERS WATER SAVING OPPORTUNITIES

With the introduction of residential excess water charging in Christchurch City Council has stepped up its meter reading, now undertaking manual water meter reads on all residential and commercial water meters every quarter (90 days). This has increased data from 90,000 transactions to just under half a million per year. Increased knowledge of water use has helped identify leaks across the city and provided residents with information to make behavior changes on their water use to avoid bills for excessive use.

The council is planning to introduce excess water use charges and working to shift perception on these so they are not seen as a revenue gathering exercise. Rather, they want residents to understand that this is an opportunity for the garden city to value this precious resource, ensure sufficient water during summer to provide adequate fire flows, and to lower chances of water restrictions for the peak demand periods. To this end council has opened up read and consumption data, providing residents with tools to make informed choices about water use: <https://ccc.govt.nz/services/water-and-drainage/water-supply/water-reporter>.

Feedback from customers and residents who have been contacted due to high water use has been positive and is often centered around previously not knowing of their leaks. While many leaks have been a couple of thousand liters a day, free draining soils meant the increased metering has also uncovered a number of eye watering leaks. Council's Team Leader of Water Services, Will Rowson attended a leak at a school where 50 liters a minute or 72,000 liters per day was leaking with no visible sign due to ground conditions.

The council is not stopping there. Having recently completed a proof of concept of smart water metering areas, the council is now working through teething issues with the trial to expand to a larger area. To hear more about the journey, join us for the WeCAN October conference workshop. Further details later in the newsletter.

WATER EFFICIENT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

With New Zealand's residential property building booming, this story of developers incorporating water efficiency into new home builds provides a shining example of the opportunities that exist. Jules MacKinnon and husband Blair are first time property developers.

The couple have built a complex of 13 apartments that is not only beautifully designed but is also based on sustainability principles that center water and energy efficiency alongside an overall philosophy of waste minimisation. More about their development at 26 Aroha and its water efficient features is [available here](#).

WATERCARES CITIZEN ASSEMBLY

Watercare are collaborating with the University of Auckland's Centre for Informed Futures, Koi Tū, to host a citizens' assembly over four weekends over August and September 2022. This is an effort to help bring ordinary citizens' into the decision making process and involve customers in a complex conversation about the long-term future of Auckland's water supply.

A citizens' assembly is a form of collaborative decision-making focused on bringing a diverse and representative group together. In this case, they will learn, deliberate and make an informed decision on the complex topic of Auckland's water future. More about the [project available here](#).

WECAN VALUING WATER WORKSHOP

WeCAN will once again, be hosting a workshop at the Water New Zealand Conference, being held at Te Pae in Christchurch from the 18th to 20th of October. This year's workshop will focus on initiatives to support customers to value water. Registration and event details are available here: <http://www.waternzconference.org.nz/>

WATERLOSS GUIDELINES WORKSHOP

The update of the Water Loss guidelines will be progressed at a scoping workshop, on the 26th July. If you are involved in water loss management and would like to contribute to setting the future national direction, contact Lesley.smith@waternz.org.nz to register your interest in participating in the workshop.

Noho ora mai,

Christine McCormack