Summer / 2021 / ISSUE #1

WE CAN
Water Efficiency & Conservation Network
WATER NEW ZEALAND

WECAN Group Newsletter

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

Welcome

Welcome to our first quarterly e-newsletter for the Water Efficiency & Conservation group. It's been a year since we restarted We Can with a mission to lead the national conversation on water efficiency and conservation. We would like to connect more widely to interested water industry professionals like you through this e-newsletter. Please pass it on to others and encourage them to join the network.

LinkedIn Group Page

The Water Efficiency & Conservation group has now launched a LinkedIn page, creating a space for water efficiency professionals to share knowledge and connect. Jump on our LinkedIn page and share your water efficiency insights. We would love to hear about any water management initiatives in your region to deal with a hot dry summer and how its going.

https://www.linkedin.com/company/water-new-zealand-water-efficiency-conservation-network-group

Watercare's Water Efficiency Plan 2021-2025

Watercare launched its 2021-2025 water efficiency plan in 2021 in consultation with Auckland Council. The plan is hosted on a microsite which was developed in order to support and promote some exciting water efficiency initiatives. Watercare also has two other programmes of work in development: one is a partnership with a developer to explore the potential of water efficient home design, and a water calculator to help customers better understand their home water usage.

You can download a plan, and access supporting content and news through this interactive website: https://waterefficiencyplan.watercare.co.nz/

WHAT'S NEW

WECAN/SWIG Workshop - Online

You need more than a digital meter for smart water metering, you need a smart metering ecosystem that will measure water demands in a way that is used to influence customer water use behaviour and improve network management.

This workshop will be a joint session between the Water Efficiency and Conservation Network SIG and the Smart Water Infrastructure SIG to explore the smart metering ecosystem from the point of view of both water suppliers and suppliers of metering technology. Three water suppliers will present their needs and experiences on their smart metering journey, followed by two suppliers sharing technology capabilities for the smart metering ecosystem. The workshop will conclude with a panel discussion. The panel discussion will cover finding the sweet spot between what the customer wants and what the technology can provide, as well as options for potential procurement models to improve the status quo.

The workshop will be held online Thursday 31st March from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. This will also include the AGM for the Water Efficiency & Conservation Network Group.

We have a few places available on the We Can committee. If you're keen to join us, please contact Katrina Guy and attend our AGM on 31 March 2022 at 5pm

https://www.waternz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=857

Drinking Water Network Environmental Performance

The Water Services Act 2021 introduces new requirements to monitor and report on the environmental performance of certain drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater suppliers and their operators.

These requirements are designed to provide greater transparency about the performance of networks, the impacts they have on the environment and public health, and to contribute to the continuous and progressive improvement of the quality of water services.

This discussion document sets out a proposed approach for Taumata Arowai to commence monitoring the environmental performance of drinking water networks in mid-2022, that includes water efficiency and water loss performance measures.

Consultation closes on March 28th. You can provide your own submission here or contact lesley.smith@waternz.org.nz if you have thoughts you wish to include in their submission.

https://te-puna-korero.taumataarowai.govt.nz/regulatory/drinking-water-network-environment-performance/

Committee Member Profile

Christine McCormack (Chair)

What organisation do you work for and what is your role?

I work for my own organisation, Water Cycle Consulting, and my role is Principal Water Engineer.

Tell us about your career background and how you got to this position/role?

I've worked as an engineering consultant in both New Zealand and Canada, including over 14 years for Stantec. I started my own business in 2018 in search of a better work-life balance, or at least the illusion of more control over my workload

What has been your favourite water conservation project and why?

It's too hard to pick a favourite! I've really enjoyed the relationships I've built through water conservation projects with NZ local government staff in Queenstown Lakes, Waipa District and Mackenzie Lakes District. My most memorable water conservation project would have to be the Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposal to improve rainwater harvesting in remote villages on coral atolls in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

What's the hardest job you've ever done and why?

My most challenging project was the technical lead role for the development of a GCF proposal with the United Nations Development Programme to improve water supply security for remote coastal areas of Bangladesh. My role was to supervise local Bangladeshi engineers in the analysis of surveys in the target villages and the design of new rainwater harvesting systems for community buildings. We had to overcome differences in culture, working time zones and the design methodology, plus I had to supervise their work remotely. I found it immensely rewarding despite the challenges, especially when we were successful in securing GCF funding.

Why water conservation?

I love working in water conservation as I feel like I'm making a difference (cliché I know) to improving our environment through more efficient use of water resources as well as tapping into the social psychology side of how to motivate people to change their water use behaviour.