



Rainwater harvesting has reduced their average daily drinking water use by up to 100,000 litres.

OXFORD COLD STORAGE

Investing to save precious water

Australia's largest privately owned cold storage operator sees investment in responsible water use as a safeguard for the industry's future.

Based in Laverton North, Oxford Cold Storage is a family-owned and operated company that has been providing cold storage for Australian manufacturers since 1975. Oxford provides a vital link in the cold chain for a wide range of products, from foods to pharmaceuticals.

It was the threat of water restrictions that set Oxford on the path to environmental sustainability, explains Engineering Manager, Gabor Hilton.

"About three years ago we saw the effects of drought in Queensland and understood that if similar water cut-backs became necessary in Victoria, we'd be in difficulties. Water security is a survival issue for our

business. Grow Me The Money assisted us in evaluating energy and water usage throughout our facility, and thinking about ways to reduce it," says Gabor.

A large amount of water is consumed by evaporative condensers used in large-scale industrial refrigeration plants to eject extracted heat into the outside air.

"We installed a water-harvesting system to collect rainwater from our extensive roof area, which we use in the condensers whenever available. We can save more than 60 per cent in a rainy week. Over the last eight months, we've saved up to 100,000 litres of drinking-quality water per day," Gabor estimates. →

HOW OXFORD IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- Rainwater harvesting has approximately halved consumption of drinking water for use in the refrigeration process.
- Estimated savings of up to 100,000 litres per day
- Older refrigerator condenser replaced with water- and energy-efficient unit
- Air locks fitted to pallet loading doors reduce infiltration of warm air during receiving and dispatch
- Reduced operating times and intensity of security lighting
- Occupancy sensors fitted in new office building

GREEN CREDENTIALS

- Logistics Association of Australia Environmental Excellence award
- 2008 TS Mort Award for outstanding engineering design or application (Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating) awarded to Gabor Hilton for his work in energy management technology and rainwater harvesting for evaporative condensers.



ACHIEVING BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY

Gold Club Members are businesses that have achieved measurable reductions in at least one resource area of water, waste or energy, and are working towards incorporating environmental sustainability into all business operations.

"Water security is a survival issue for our business."

www.growmethemoney.com.au

Grow Me The Money is a joint initiative of the Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI), Environmental Protection Authority (EPA Victoria), and the State Government of Victoria.



CASE STUDY OXFORD COLD STORAGE



At a cost of \$600,000, Oxford's water-saving equipment represents a major long-term investment. "We're taking a long-term outlook," says Gabor.

"Even after subsidies from the Victorian Government Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development and City West Water, and taking into account the rising cost of water, we calculate that pay-back will take about seven to eight years."

Gabor figures that it will have been a price well worth paying if water allocations are restricted in future by changes in regulations or reduction in mains pressure, either of which would seriously compromise operations.

"It has also become a great marketing tool, which is another benefit we never thought of," says Gabor. "For many prospective customers – particularly the large national and multinational companies – one of the key questions they ask is 'what has Oxford done for the environment?' We can proudly point to our significant water savings."

Because Oxford's core business depends on its refrigeration plant, energy costs will always be high proportion of operational expense, but Gabor says careful assessment of energy use identified ways to cut wastage.

"We fitted air-locks to our pallet loading access doors and replaced one of our older refrigeration condensers that used too much energy and water. We also reduced our operating times, adjusted the intensity of our security lighting and fitted occupancy sensors in our new offices," he says.

"Grow Me The Money serves a very useful purpose by forming a conduit between industry, government and suppliers. One of the greatest benefits of being involved is that it helped us receive publicity and recognition from our clients and employees that Oxford Cold Storage is an environmentally friendly company." ■

www.aboxford.com.au



Air locks improve insulation and save energy



We've saved an average of 100,000 litres of drinking-quality water per day .

www.growmethemoney.com.au



Grow Me The Money is a free program for Victorian small- to medium-sized businesses to help them to reduce their impact on the environment and save money doing it.

We guide participating businesses through the process of measuring and reducing their energy use, water consumption and waste output.

For more information on how we can help your business, visit www.growmethemoney.com.au