

Demand management bulletin

Series 2, Issue 15, July 2015

Drought focuses the minds in USA

This issue of the *Bulletin* features a number of articles from the USA. The extremely serious drought in California and the record low water levels in Colorado's Lake Mead is focusing the minds on how to reduce the demand for water.

The UK had its 'near miss' in 2012 when unprecedented rains ended what appeared to be an inevitable water shortage by the autumn. In California the prospect of a reprieve is small, given the fact that the snowpack at the end of winter in the High Sierra was at 8% of normal, easily the lowest level ever recorded.

Back in the UK, this year's winter and spring rainfall was a little below normal [[link](#)]. No real concern yet, but history tells us that the next drought could easily be just around the corner.

Philip Turton, Editor.

Jacob Tompkins OBE

Jacob Tompkins, Managing Director of Waterwise, has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's birthday honours for his services to water efficiency.



Jacob set up the company 10 years ago to promote the efficient use of water.

Congratulations to Jacob personally and to Waterwise for changing perceptions on how water should be used.

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Environment Agency



Environment Agency Drought Framework

The Cabinet Office identifies drought as a civil emergency within the National Risk Register of Civil Emergencies (2015 edition). In England, the main organisations responsible for managing water resources during drought are:

- the Environment Agency; provides strategic oversight and is responsible for monitoring, reporting, advising and acting to reduce the impact of a drought on the environment and water users
- water companies; responsible for managing water supply for their customers and taking a range of measures to maintain supplies whilst minimising environmental impact
- Government; responsible for policies relating to water resources.

This means we need to plan for and be prepared for drought. Our National Drought Framework has recently been published [\[link\]](#) and gives the strategic framework of how we work with government, water companies and others to manage the effects of drought on people, business and the environment.

Defra Ministerial team

In the new Government Cabinet **Elizabeth Truss** continues her role as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Rory Stewart is Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs with



responsibilities that include: natural environment, floods and water, resource and environmental management and lead responsibility for the Environment Agency.



DCLG

Technical Housing Standards Review



As part of the Deregulation Act, Government has implemented the findings of the housing standards review. New Planning Practice Guidance [\[Link\]](#) and amendments to Building Regulations [\[Link\]](#) relating to water efficiency in new homes have been published. The Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) has been withdrawn.

All new homes continue to have to meet the mandatory national standard set out in the Building Regulations of 125 litres/person/day. Where there is a clear local need, local planning authorities can set out Local Plan policies requiring new dwellings to meet the tighter Building Regulations optional requirement of 110 litres/person/day.

Ireland

Free fix for leaks



Irish Water is proposing to only fix leaks in properties which are leaking 53,000 litres of water per year, equivalent to almost six months' 'average' household usage. [\[Link to article\]](#)

Leak management system

Irish Water has issued a tender notice for the provision of a *National Leakage Management System*. The e-tender states that the core

requirement is to supply and implement a leakage calculation and reporting system that will prioritise areas for leakage reduction. [\[Link\]](#)

First Fix Scheme

Irish Water has launched the *Interim First Fix Scheme* for detecting and repairing leaks on the external supply pipe between the water meter and the home.

The national installation of water meters provides valuable information to identify where leaks are occurring. Following the completion of the first meter reading cycle, Irish Water identified over 30,000 suspected leaks on customer properties. Approximately 7% of all meters read to the end of 2014 indicated a leak on the customer side of the meter.

The Commission for Energy Regulation approved an interim spend by Irish Water of 3.4m euro to progress the initial stages of the *First Fix Scheme*. Irish Water has submitted its long term *First Fix Policy* to the Commission, and it will be published for public consultation shortly. [\[Link to article\]](#)

Scotland

Q&A

Resource Efficient Scotland recently held a Q&A session with Dr Stuart Ballinger, project director for the Water Technology List, to discuss why and how businesses should reduce their water use.

[\[Link to the Q&A\]](#)



Wales

Water Strategy for Wales



The Welsh Assembly has published a *Water Strategy for Wales*, The Strategy [\[Link\]](#) sets out the direction for water policy over the next 20 years and beyond.

The Strategy highlights the Welsh Government's vision to ensure that Wales continues to have a thriving water environment which is sustainably managed to support healthy communities, flourishing businesses and the environment.

'To ensure that our resources are managed sustainably, now and in the future, we will work with the water companies and other interested parties to encourage and incentivise engagement and action on water usage, to challenge perceptions and to promote the benefits of water efficiency. Our aim is to assist both domestic and business consumers in reducing their water'.

Among a number of principal actions the Strategy identifies:

- we will investigate public attitudes to the use and value of water in Wales to help to inform how businesses and households can use water more efficiently
- we will assess and consult on options for encouraging reduction in water consumption. This will include working with the water companies and other interested parties to encourage and incentivise engagement and action on water usage; to challenge perceptions; to promote the benefits of water efficiency; and carry out further investigation into the costs and benefits of metering.

Waterwise

2015 Annual Conference



A full write up, by Philip Turton, of the 2015 *Waterwise Annual Conference* is now available [\[Link\]](#). Meanwhile Waterwise's *2016 Annual Conference* is scheduled for 2 March 2016. [\[Link to Diary\]](#)

Water Efficiency Review

Waterwise are compiling *Water Efficiency Today: UK Review 2015* and they are looking for contributions.

This report is to be a snapshot of water efficiency in the UK today, and provide the basis of the *National Water Efficiency Strategy* being developed later this year. Waterwise will be collecting information on current and recent activities of water companies and other organisations. You can contact Safa El-jamal [\[Email\]](#) to discuss how you can input into the report.

Water Efficiency Database

The latest edition of the Waterwise newsletter highlights the *Water Efficiency Database*. It is designed to hold water efficiency reports from the UK and beyond. It is fully searchable and there are summaries for each report. [\[Link to database\]](#)

CCWater

Save Water Save Money

A waterwise tweet reminded us of CcWater's *Save Water Save Money* page [\[link\]](#) that not only gives excellent water efficiency advice but links to fifteen water company water efficiency advice web pages. There is also a link to companies' social tariff schemes [\[link\]](#).

WATEF Network

Glasgow workshop



The WATEF Glasgow workshop in April on the *Regional Approach to Water Efficiency* was held at Glasgow Calendonian University.

The presentations were: Andy Wilson (Scottish Water) on *Water Efficient Scotland* [\[Link\]](#), Rizwan Nawaz (University of Leeds) on *Techno-sociological challenges and Opportunities for Water Conservation* [\[Link\]](#), Alan Crilly (NI Water) on the *NI Water Approach to Water Efficiency* [\[Link\]](#) and Richard Malloy (Ricardo AEA) discussed *Corporate Water Risk in Global Supply Chains* and how water efficiency is a vital element [\[Link\]](#).

Water company initiatives

Northumbrian Water



Northumbrian Water's *Every Drop Counts* involved hundreds of families and businesses in Glendale, all working to save water, energy and money. The campaign, which took place over three months last summer, was the company's first whole-town approach to water conservation.

More than 1,800 customers in the town were offered a free water efficiency audit to assess their usage and a range of free water saving devices were installed.

Figures so far show that the community approach has saved more than 35,000 litres of water per day, with each household saving over 70 litres every day. Customers on a water meter saved an average of £41 off their annual bill. Now Northumbrian Water has announced the initiative will come to Berwick in June. [\[Link to article\]](#)

Thames Water

Thames Water's water efficiency programme (see the previous Bulletin) is moving forward on a number of fronts.

Andrew Tucker and Rosie Rand have provided the Bulletin with updates.



Last year fifty schools took part in the schools programme with a further 80 more primary and secondary schools due to take part this year. Last month, Global Action Plan ran an awards event at GLA City Hall to mark the completion of their schools programme. This year's programme will be in partnership with EcoActionGames, Global Action Plan and Ech2O.

The students are using the information from the programme to carry out a range of tasks including school water use and taking the water savings challenge home to parents, using campaign and online content developed by the students.

The schools also benefit from a free water audits, AMR readings and the installation of water efficient equipment, including urinal controls.

Thames Water is contributing towards the leaky loo collaboration project that continues apace. In total around 200 homes with leaky loos could take part in the project.

The 15 minute data obtained from Thames Water's fixed-area-network has confirmed that a leaky toilet wastes on average 405 litres a day [\[link\]](#) and that 5% of toilets in metered households have leaks.

The company's water efficiency website has added a range of educational videos to show customers how to best to fit water efficiency devices, and the water-money savings from each. In addition the 'Tap App' is up and running for customers to use.

Based on the Energy Saving Trust's Water Energy Calculator, information obtained from the TAP App is being used to analyse the 'before and after' benefits of the Smarter Home Visits being delivered in several London boroughs. All consumption and potential savings data is captured, with each household receiving their own personalised water report.

The multi-faith project with London Sustainability Exchange (LSx) and UCL is now complete. The project identified the main areas of water consumption associated with faith and cultural specific practices in the homes. Along with some potential opportunities for future water efficiency engagement and campaigns. The multi-faith report will soon be available on the LSx website [\[link\]](#).

An update on the Smarter Homes visits shows that, in June, visits are up to 2,000 a month. Twenty Groundwork staff are providing the in-house retrofits and advice.

The initiative is running in parallel with the Progressive Metering Programme in London, with additional in-home visits in Hungerford and Newbury contributing towards the Care for the Kennet programme [\[link\]](#).

The Water Efficiency Network's Collaborative Fund is aiming to team up with WATEF to run a Dissemination Event covering recent research project findings. Watch this space!!

Scottish Water

Andy Wilson, Project Manager at Scottish Water, has provided the *Bulletin* with information about two water efficiency trials they are carrying out. These involve 2,400 private and rented homes right across Scotland over a three year period. The trials involve recruitment by Energy Saving Trust (EST) and data management from the smart water meters by Etive Technologies.

The company is looking to collect a year's worth of consumption data, split the groups and then see if it can change use through a number of interventions. This involves education/information, delivered by EST, as well as an upgrading of fittings and fixtures.

Scottish Water are also trialling rainwater harvesting at a Argyll Community Housing Association's new twelve house development in Inveraray. This is to compare the effectiveness of the rainwater systems in six houses against the six on normal supply. Rainwater will be used to flush toilets only. For more information [\[email\]](#)

Research

UKWIR open innovation



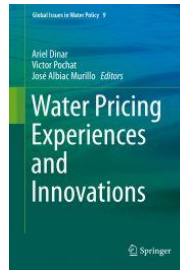
A research project *A Design and Innovation Competition (Report of a trial on how water companies can innovate with their customers using open innovation)* [\[Link\]](#) explores whether 'open innovation' can be used to develop ideas that would encourage customers to change their behaviour, based on a better understanding of the issues faced by the industry. Water use featured prominently throughout the project.

The contractor, 100%Open, used its 'Consumer Co-Creation Community' approach. The first stage was to explore online conversations about water, using social media, in order to understand what, how and why people talk about water issues. This was used to identify ideas that could encourage and engender behaviour change.

Over 5,000 relevant conversations were identified across a broad range of social media. These were analysed and reviewed to draw out insights around consumer behaviours and attitudes and ideas on how to influence them. A workshop identified three key themes:

- *Meaningful Measures*: to crowdsource ideas for getting everyone engaged in how much water they use
- *Water Aware*: to crowdsource ideas for motivating people to save water
- *Loo Litter*: to crowdsource ideas for getting people to think more about what they flush away and to change their behaviour.

A 'crowdsourcing' website *Water Talkers* [\[Link\]](#) was designed and members of the public recruited from across the UK to explore, discuss and develop the ideas and solutions to the challenges. The report includes these community generated ideas



For the full benefit from the Open Innovation to be realised the project report recommends that water companies review and build upon the outcome of this work to determine what value can be extracted and exploited in the context of their customer and corporate communications.

Water pricing

Water Pricing Experiences and Innovations [\[Link\]](#) presents practices and implementation experiences from fifteen countries where conservation has been achieved through water-pricing incentive systems.

The book has been edited by water economist Ariel Dinar, professor of environmental economics and policy in the UCR School of Public Policy with José Albiac Murillo of the Agrifood Research and Technology Centre in Zaragoza, Spain, and Victor Pochat, a consultant in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

It presents the latest water-pricing experiences in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, France, India, Israel, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands,

New Zealand, South Africa and Spain. The book also reviews innovations in water pricing, for achieving social objectives, achieving revenue recovery, water-use efficiency and customer equity.

Dinar adds that *'there is no single best practice that can be recommended to one country or sector'* and that *'water-using sectors in various locations face different situations and needs for pricing approaches. Future scarcity affected by climate change will most likely lead to different water pricing needs than the schemes we know from the past'*.

Agriculture

NFU survey

The survey (*Water Availability in a Changing Climate: A Survey of Irrigated Crop Growers in the River Lark & Wissey Catchments*) shows that 74% of respondents across both the Wissey and Lark in East Anglian catchments are quite or very confident about water security for the year ahead. But for five years' time, the proportion drops to 36% and this figure falls to 26% for 10 years' time. The report highlights many of the demand management measures take up during the 2010-12 drought. [\[Link to survey\]](#)

Domestic

ech₂o newsletter

The latest edition of *the ech₂o water newsletter* mentions their shower questionnaire that was designed to tempt adolescents as part of the work recently completed for Thames Water. There is the offer for anyone to have a go. It is anonymous, takes about five minutes. [\[Link\]](#)



Non-domestic



ADSM (Advance Demand Side Management) launched *AquaMark*, a national benchmarking scheme on 21st May in Heatherden Hall at Pinewood Studios.

The ADSM team of Ismelda Deacon, Sian McCart, Nick Butt and Julian Edmonds outlined the need for a national benchmarking scheme and the project's objective. The multi-million pound research project is managed by consultants ADSM and is free for all UK organisations to participate in.

It is fully-grant-funded and available to organisations of all sizes and sectors.

Participating organisations will receive a range of free services for the duration of the three year project, which include; bill validation services, monthly consumption reports and access to all the benchmarks at the end of the project. [\[Link\]](#)

ADSM has gained experience of benchmarking for non-domestic use though their work for Defra on benchmarking and their own WaterMark projects, particularly with local authorities, universities and hospitals.

Trevor Bishop, Head of Water Resources at the Environment Agency, gave the keynote speech, outlining the need for water efficiency to help meet the future water demand/supply balance.

Ismelda Deacon described how Aquamark is a three year funded project. Sian McCart added that the project will contribute to ADSM ambition to reduce global water use by 1%.

The current initiative is looking at what we should be using. Benchmarking household use is relatively

easy but commercial water use is complex, especially given a diversity of building types.

An aim of the project is to keep Britain at the forefront of water efficiency by classifying 500 different building types. This requires more data, statistical analysis and the ability to 'relate to reason'. ADSM with their skill sets can provide this.

Support for improved benchmarking and water efficiency applications came from presentations by Nicci Russell from Ofwat, Rupert Kruger at Thames Water and Professor Paul Whitehead from Oxford University. Finally Fiona Daly, from Barts Health Trust presented a case study of *Complex Benchmarks in Practice*.

Drought California

For the first time in state history, the Governor has directed the State Water Resources Control Board to implement mandatory water reductions in cities and towns across California to reduce water usage by 25 percent. To save more water now, the order will also:

- replace 50 million square feet of lawns throughout the state with drought tolerant landscaping in partnership with local governments
- direct the creation of a temporary, statewide consumer rebate program to replace old appliances with more water and energy efficient models



- require campuses, golf courses, cemeteries and other large landscapes to make significant cuts in water use.
- prohibit new homes and developments from irrigating with potable water unless water-efficient drip irrigation systems are used, and ban watering of ornamental grass on public street medians. [\[Link to article\]](#)

The four year prolonged drought in California is of such severity that politicians are taking action and mandatory rules and standards are being set.

Initially there was a call for 25% reduction in water use from a 2013 baseline across the state [\[Link\]](#). However, after discussions this was altered depending how much water conservation effort had taken place in a particular community in the past.

Thus the Governor, Jerry Brown, ordered all of the state's 410 largest cities, water districts and water companies to cut water use between 8 percent and 36 percent, compared to 2013 levels, or face fines of up to \$10,000 a day. [\[Link\]](#)

Thus communities that already have low per-capita usage, like San Francisco, Hayward and Santa Cruz, were given the lowest 8% target, while those with the highest, like Beverly Hills, Hillsborough and Bakersfield, are required to cut by 36%.

The amount of water budgeted for each customer for the following month will appear on his or her monthly water bill. There is to be a water-banking component that allows customers to roll over water they did not use in one month to the following month. The surcharge for exceeding the water budget will be \$10 per unit, for each unit above the customer's water budget.

First offenders will get a warning, second offenders will draw a \$50 fine and third offenders a \$100 penalty. A fourth offence will earn a flow-restrictor and a fifth will lead to water being cut off. Penalties can be waived if a customer participates in a water-use evaluation and/or upgrades their irrigation system.

The state Building Standards Commission took action in response to the Governor's executive order to save water. The standards include limits on how much water can be used on landscapes over certain sizes for new and renovated developments proposed after 1 June. It is up to local governments to enforce the rules, which cover new and renovated homes, office buildings, schools and hospitals. [\[Link\]](#)

A State-wide poll [\[Link\]](#) found that an overwhelming majority of Californians believe the state's drought is extremely serious and support Governor Jerry Brown's mandatory new water conservation rules. 89% of California residents described the drought as serious, with 66% saying it is extremely serious. Those findings show a higher level of concern than in the 1977 drought, when 87 percent described it as serious, with 51% saying it was extremely serious.

However, 44% of homeowners say they will find it tough to reduce their own household's water use if they are asked to cut back. And nearly half of wealthier homeowners, who tend to use more water than average, envision such difficulty.

California regulators are speeding up water-efficiency standards for faucets and urinals in response to the drought. The new standards, developed by the California Energy Commission, will require the appliances to use less water when installed in homes and office buildings from January 2016. The order also allows the commission to prohibit stores from selling outdated models in 2016.

The new rules mean urinals can't flush more than an eighth of a gallon, down from half a gallon. All taps were previously allowed to pour 2.2 gallons a minute: The updated standards lower that to 1.2 for home bathrooms, 1.8 for kitchens and 0.5 gallon for public bathrooms.

Low-flush toilets standards took effect in 2014 under legislation signed in 2007. The commission also voted to lower its toilet water standard from 1.6 gallons a flush to 1.28 gallons to match the law.

There has been naming and shaming of some of the Hollywood elite over their water use with helicopters highlighting areas of lush green in what is mainly desert. [\[Link\]](#)

Utah

Utah Governor, Gary R. Herbert, signed an executive order [\[link\]](#) mandating water conservation for all state owned and managed facilities. The executive order directs the Division of Facilities Construction and Management to assist agencies at all state owned and managed buildings to:

- Prohibit watering of landscapes between 10am and 6pm and update irrigation technology to control watering relative to the amount of rainfall reaching the landscape.
- Replace inefficient plumbing fixtures with ultra low-flow fixtures, as appropriate. Audit and repair all landscape irrigation systems so they are operating efficiently. Implement leak-detection and repair programs for both indoor and outdoor water use.
- Conduct periodic checks of facility restrooms, boiler rooms, etc., to ensure appliances are working at maximum efficiency.

- Update facility-management technology to include metering for water-consuming processes related to irrigation, domestic and mechanical systems.
- Evaluate opportunities to limit turf areas surrounding facilities. Use a water budgeting tool to consistently evaluate and establish an appropriate water allowance for the facility landscape and, where appropriate, follow the weekly lawn watering guide.

Governor Herbert also encouraged all Utahns to do their part to conserve water throughout the summer by implementing water-saving tips available at [\[link\]](#)

Taiwan

Taiwan has begun rationing water supplies to over a million households in New Taipei city, neighbouring Taoyuan city and Hsinchu county, amid the worst drought for many years.

The rationing will take the form of water cut-offs for two days a week, indefinitely. Taiwan's Central Emergency Operation Center will also meet this week to discuss possible water rationing in the cities of Tainan and Kaohsiung at the end of May.

The normal seasonal rainfall, due in early April, failed to arrive and the dry spell is forecast to continue. The economics affairs ministry said in a statement that the water supply situation *'is urgent as Taiwan had the lowest rainfall last autumn and winter since 1947'*. [\[Link to article\]](#)

Elsewhere in east Asia, the Korean Peninsula is said to be suffering its worst drought in over a hundred years. [\[Link to article\]](#)

Brazil

With over 11 million residents, Sao Paulo is Brazil's most populous city and the country's economic

centre. But senior officials at Sao Paulo's water facility said residents might soon be evacuated because there is not enough water, to bathe or to clean homes.

The water crisis is the worst in the last 84 years, and the dry season has only just begun, with less water in the dams than in 2014, when restrictions on water began and the authorities began to realise the seriousness of the disaster. Last week, a conference between academics, military employees and local councils to discuss how to handle the coming five months in case that reserves run out, and the city might go up to five days without water. [\[Link\]](#)

Australia & New Zealand

Caring about water

A new water efficiency resource for businesses has been issued by Watercare Services as part of its commitment to help Auckland organisations use water more wisely.

The book [\[Link\]](#) details the steps an organisation could take to become more water-efficient, from understanding its water use and identifying areas for improvement to implementing various initiatives as a programme. In 2014 Watercare launched a similar guide for households which is also available from the Watercare website. [\[Link to article\]](#)

USA & Canada

Energy and water programme

Southern California Edison has partnered with six area contractors in an effort to reduce energy waste in multifamily homes by replacing old light fixtures and shower heads with newer, more efficient alternatives.

The energy rebate program, which aims to reduce energy and water usage by 20 percent, is free to customers of the utility company. [\[Link to article\]](#)

Water efficiency scorecard

Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, and Wyoming are the weakest states in the U.S. when it comes to water efficiency and conservation, according to a scorecard compiled by the Alliance for Water Efficiency and the Environmental Law Institute.

Energy & Water Efficiency Bill

On April 30, President Obama signed the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015, which would direct the administrator of the General Services Administration to develop model leasing codes that encourage cost-effective energy and water efficiency measures in commercial buildings. It is only the second piece of federally enacted legislation in a decade to mention water efficiency. [\[Link\]](#)

Water Efficiency Watch

The April edition of *Water Efficiency Watch* reported that, barring intervention, by the end of the water year on September 30th, Lake Mead's surface is projected to fall below 1,075 feet above sea level, which would smash last year's record low set in July. Lake Powell is now at just 45% of capacity and Mead is at 41%. [\[Link\]](#)

RESNET

The Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET), in partnership with the Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC) and a coalition of water efficiency experts, homebuilders, environmental organisations and home energy professionals is developing the nation's first Water Efficiency Rating (WER) Index.



The WER Index will show consumers at a glance how efficiently a home uses water by assigning it a numerical score based on performance. RESNET proposes to have the WER Index ready for use across the United States by the end of this year. [\[Link\]](#)

HERO PACE

Thirty eight cities and three counties across California recently launched the *HERO Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program*. The program enables homeowners and commercial property owners to pay off energy and water efficiency improvements through property tax bills.

The HERO Program has now been adopted by 290 California communities since launching in December 2011 and is now available to 10 million California households. To date, it has funded more than 28,000 residential efficiency projects, totalling more than \$552 million in financing. The program has helped to create 4,700 local jobs through these investments.

As California's drought deepens, HERO also gives homeowners an affordable way to install new water-saving technologies, including artificial turf and drought-tolerant landscaping.

The program has received the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award, the Urban Land Institute Best of the Best and the Southern California Association of Governments President's Award for Excellence. Taking part in the HERO Program is 100% voluntary for both jurisdictions and property owners. The program is cost neutral to participating local governments. To learn more about HERO you can visit [\[Link\]](#)

World

OECD

An Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report, *Environmental Outlook to 2050* [\[Link\]](#), singles out demand management as an opportunity. It highlights that 'Europe is also well-placed to take advantage of technical and non-technical innovations in water infrastructure, water demand management and institutions'.

Drought research

Research from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) shows that some regions may see unprecedented levels of drought before 2050, making calls for adaptation and updated water management policy increasingly urgent.

The findings show that many regions, including the Mediterranean and the western US, may see unprecedented drought due to climate change ahead of this date. [\[Link to article\]](#)

Water Resources Group's call for projects

The *2030 Water Resources Group* (WRG) was formed by a number of leading corporations, including Nestle, Coca Cola, Pepsi Co, IFC and the World Economic Forum. It is working to help address water scarcity problems in different parts of the world.

Arup is looking to identify 40 case studies of best practice examples of water saving solutions from the agricultural and industrial sectors for an update to the WRG *Water Use in Scarce Environments Catalogue*. For more information [\[Email\]](#).

Competition and Water Efficiency

A blog on *Competition and Water Efficiency* on the Alliance for Water Efficiency website has been written by Aaron Burton from Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited. [\[Link\]](#)

Special drops

Diageo's Water Blueprint

The company have set a target of improving water efficiency across its operations by 50%. [\[Link\]](#)

Mayor's Challenge

The Mayors' Challenge in the US realised five winning cities: Hermosa Beach, Poway, Torrance, CA and San Diego, in California and Aurora in Colorado. [\[Link\]](#)

Wi-Fi sprinkling

A Wi-Fi sprinkler from Denver-based startup company Rachio, replaces the automatic sprinkling system with one that's connected to the Internet and allows homeowners to control it from a smart phone. [\[Link\]](#)

US open's low watering holes

The US Open golf tournament was held at a sustainable golf course with a new water-reduced playing surface. Unfortunately, the golfers blamed it for their poor scores. [\[Link\]](#)

BT

BT has released its 2014/15 progress report, revealing a 34% year-on-year cut in waste-to-landfill, a 12% cut in UK water use and a 4% cut in energy consumption. [\[Link\]](#)

Diary

5-7 August - WATEFCON 2015

This year's Water Efficiency in Buildings Network's conference theme is *Energy Efficient Urban Water Management*. It is to be held at the University of Exeter. [\[Link to event\]](#)

16-17 September - Managing Water Demand

The event which is being organised by the University of Southampton and Southern Water and supported by the WATEF network. It is to be held at UCL in London. [\[Link to event\]](#)

6 October - Rainwater/greywater seminar

Waterwise are planning this seminar on the 6th October 2015, to be held at WWF's Living Planet Centre (the event will include a tour of this state-of-the-art building including RWH). Further details will be available shortly.

6-9 October - WaterSmart Innovations

The eighth annual WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition is to be held at the South Point Hotel, Las Vegas. [\[Link to event\]](#)

15 October - Water UK Annual Leakage Conference

Water UK will be hosting its 16th Annual Leakage Conference in Birmingham at the Crowne Plaza Hotel [\[Link to event\]](#).

25 November - SWIG Awards

The Sustainable Water Industries Group have announced their *2015 Awards Ceremony* and are asking for one A4 page with details about your project, with supporting photos and data, where appropriate. [\[Link\]](#)

8-9 December - North American Water Loss Conference

To be held in Atlanta [\[Link to event\]](#).

2 March 2016 - Waterwise Annual Conference

The 2016 conference is to be held at RSA House, 8 John Adam Street, London, WC2N [\[Link\]](#).