

Case Study

RAINWATER HARVESTING AT CADBURY

Cadbury installed a large scale rainwater harvesting system at their Ringwood site in November 2008. Research gained using figures from the last 10 years' rainfall indicates the site expects to harvest in excess of 15 million litres of water, on average, a year.



Reasons for undertaking the Project

Cadbury Ringwood covers 23 hectares, employs approximate 1000 people and produces all Cadbury "bar" products and the Cadbury branded Easter eggs for Australia and New Zealand.

Cadbury recognised that they had a corporate responsibility to conserve water as part of the wider community. They developed a strategy to reduce environmental impacts with this project being one of a number undertaken to reduce their use of drinking water.

Water Conservation Initiative

A total of approximately 2.4 hectares of roof space at the Ringwood site is used for collecting rainwater for reuse in the cooling towers and for toilet flushing.

The system consists of:

- A series of rainwater tanks providing 2 million litres of water storage
- 7 water pumps
- A wireless electronic PLC control system with 5 remote control centres overseeing the system
- Pipe work and automated valves

Cadbury funded the project with support from Department of Industry, Innovation and Regional Development. Cadbury Ringwood has also received support from the Smart Water Fund for communication of their water conservation initiatives.

The total investment by Cadbury for the rainwater harvesting expansion was several hundred thousand dollars.

The Challenges

The main challenges Cadbury Ringwood faced were:

- Difficulty in obtaining tanks with large inlet screen and overflows to handle high flows
- Long lead times on significant numbers of large diameter pipe and fittings
- Determining the type of control system to use given the distances involved.



One component of Cadbury's series of rainwater tanks

For more information contact:

Andrew Hosken

Telephone..... 9210 1300

Email..... andrew.hosken@cadbury.com