




Rainwater Harvesting

Recycling rain water – saving mains water 

Case Study Fulmer School

Fulmer Infant School in Buckinghamshire decided to install a rainwater harvesting system in 2008. They were looking to improve their sustainability and go one step further in becoming an 'Eco School'. As well as helping the environment, they have started saving money on the water bills too.

The rainwater harvesting system in Fulmer School recycles the rainwater to flush two sets of toilets. The rainwater harvesting system has been one of the major projects towards the school becoming an 'Eco-School'.

Naomi Forster of Fulmer School says:

"It is really good for educational purposes to help the children learn about sustainability and reusing water. We're being assessed tomorrow for our green flag award, so hopefully it will have really contributed to our sustainability as a school. It has helped with teaching the children to reuse things, not to waste things. We do our own compost and things like that, so water is just one of the areas."



With a rainwater harvesting system, rain water from the roof is collected in the tank, which is filtered to take out any debris. Rain water can be used to flush the toilets, for washing clothes or on the garden, which reduces the water bills, saving money as well as the environment. In a domestic setting, rainwater harvesting can reduce water consumption by up to 50% while in a commercial setting it can reduce up to 80% of water consumption.

Naomi says...

"We have begun to notice less consumption when comparing the bills from last year on the water meter. We found British Eco really helpful. It was also really nice talking to somebody from a local company. The quote was really prompt and it was good service, as well as reasonably priced, really positive. Because we are a school setting it was good to have a reduction in the price to support our eco project - that was really good. I would really recommend rainwater harvesting; it is really valuable. And so simple, and low maintenance; so once it's installed it pretty much looks after itself."



In the UK, we are ideally suited to rainwater harvesting since the UK is the rain water capital of the world. However many buildings still use drinking water from the mains to flush the toilets; which is wasting fresh drinking water – our most important resource.

At Fulmer School, they are looking at other eco improvements. Naomi says "We are constantly looking for new viable projects. We would definitely be interested in using British Eco again."



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