



CASE STUDY - MILL PARK SECONDARY COLLEGE

Hard to find leaks and what they can cost schools.

Not long after the installation of the Schools Water Efficiency Program data loggers at Mill Park Secondary College, Facilities Manager Wayne Baker realised the benefit SWEP offers - not just his school, but all participating schools.

After monitoring the schools water usage for a few weeks, one Tuesday morning Wayne was alerted to the fact that there was huge overnight water use at the school. It became apparent that the school was experiencing multiple leaks that added up to more than 520 litres per hour being wasted.



The main leakage was from a broken rubber seal attached to the evaporative air conditioners. This resulted in water running constantly through the air conditioner rather than being stored, used and disposed of as per normal operating procedure.

Toilets located in the school gym also contributed to the problem, as leaking cisterns were contributing an estimated 150 litres per hour to the overall losses. In addition, the school has a tank to toilet system for flushing toilets and a tripped valve saw mains water used instead of tank water, while not strictly a leak, it still remained a cause of increased mains water use.

"Without monitoring our water usage via SWEP, we wouldn't have known we had a problem until we got our water bill."

Wayne Baker - Mill Park Secondary College

Once the necessary repairs were made to the air conditioning system and the schools toilets the schools overall water use has dropped dramatically.

SWEP data loggers have been in place detecting leaks and issues at Mill Park Secondary College for a number of months now, this period has allowed the school to make comparisons in water use and ultimately assess the difference in its water bills.

Since having data loggers in place the schools water bills have dropped a dramatic 50% when compared to their average bill for the last 12 months.



"SWEP has made us all far more aware of water use around the school generally and, looking at the difference in our bills, it's clear to say that this increased awareness has paid off"

Wayne Baker - Mill Park Secondary College

Although located on a large site where there is always the possibility of small amount of water being lost, Wayne and his team are making best use of the SWEP website and are dedicated to reducing their water losses to zero.

Who provides SWEP to schools?

SWEP is delivered and funded by the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Yarra Valley Water is the project manager for the program on behalf of the Victorian Government.

How to register

Visit www.myswep.com.au to register your school for SWEP or to find out more.