



## **European University of Lefke**

### **Water Conservation Program**

Water scarcity is one of the most important problems in Northern Cyprus. Recently Cyprus Water Supply Project, which includes water transportation from Turkey to Northern Cyprus, was brought to life in an effort to solve this problem. 75 million cubic meters of water is being supplied to Northern Cyprus per year as a result of this project. Even with this one of a kind project including installation of 80 km of pipeline under Mediterranean Sea, water shortage is still a major problem in the island.

The aim of the *Water Conservation Program* applied in the campus of European University of Lefke (EUL) is to reduce water consumption and enrich water resources throughout the campus.

#### **Increasing Awareness of EUL Community**

We, as European University of Lefke, believe raising awareness and informing community is the key to a successful water conservation program and are following the concept of "Less is more" by increasing the awareness to simple actions, which would help us make major differences in our University's water consumption campus buildings and residence halls. The simple actions that can play a major role in decreasing the water consumption and our staff and students are made aware of include:

- Limit the time spent in shower

Try to keep showering time shorter than usual. Spending a minute less in shower can save up to 10 L of water each time you get a shower.

- Use dishwasher instead of handwashing

Handwashing the dishes results excessive water consumption when it is compared with dishwashing machine. Running faucet to run for five minutes can result a consumption of 50 L of water.

- Use dishwasher and laundry machines only when they are full

Operating dishwashing or laundry machines when they are full have a potential of a water saving of 400 L (dishwashing machine) per year for a person. Considering the number of residents living on campus at residence halls, this simple precaution can make a remarkable impact.

- Report leaks to the campus administration immediately

We should remember that water is a very valuable resource and that we cannot tolerate a single drop that is wasted. Additionally, water leakages can also cause serious damages to the buildings.

- Use refillable water bottles in order to prevent the use of plastic cups.

Refillable bottles have been distributed to the students at one of the residence halls as a pilot project. Refillable water bottles will decrease water need and provide better quality potable water for the users.

- Water conservation project competitions are organized in order to increase the awareness of students on campus and to learn students' perspective on the matter as one of the most important stakeholders of the university.

- Activities are organized by student clubs where brochures are distributed

- Seminars are a given by invited speakers and faculty members about the issue

## **Water Reuse**

University's biological waste water treatment plant treats domestic wastewater fed from the buildings and dormitories that are found in the campus. Treated water is used for landscape irrigation. 25% amount of water need on campus for irrigation is met by reclaimed water.

## **Irrigation and Landscaping**

Drip irrigation is used to reduce water consumption throughout the campus. Also, our university has a research farm where various fruits are planted. Drip irrigation is used throughout the field to reduce water consumption. Water that is used for irrigation is withdrawn from the well at the farming area. Irrigation time is also selected as early morning to avoid evaporation. Preparations on smart irrigation system is also ongoing.

Shifting to drought resistant plants for landscaping has started on the campus. This can save remarkable amount of water since they don't require watering as much and as frequent as the other plants.

## **Water Consumption in Public Toilets and Bathrooms**

Considering the indoor water consumption, sanitary areas are the largest consumers. Besides encouraging the residents to use less water, our university has taken action to reduce the water consumption. These precautions can be listed as:

### ***Water free urinals***

Urinals in the common areas are exchanged with water free models. Similarly, toilets in the new buildings are also built with water free urinals. Water free urinals are expected to save around 15,000 cubic meters of water per academic year.

### *Dual flush toilets*

Toilets in the common areas are exchanged with dual flush models. Dual flush toilets have two options for flushing (higher volume or lower volume flush). Using appropriate amounts of water for flushing can also reduce a considerable amount of water consumption.

### *Water efficient fittings*

Besides using water conserving equipment in newly constructed buildings, water efficient fittings have been implemented to the existing showerheads and faucets that are used all around the campus.

### *Low flow faucets, shower heads and toilettes*

We started using low flow showerheads and faucets on campus buildings and dormitories in order to reduce water consumption. These new products in showers and faucets can reduce water consumption up to 20% without sacrificing from the performance of standard shower heads or faucets.

## **Metering and Leakage Control**

Water consumption on campus is being measured on point in order to pinpoint the areas that need to be addressed first. In an effort to monitor water consumption in detail, a separate meter is used for each building and residence hall. Besides obtaining data for determining conservation measures, metering makes sure that occupants understand the extent of their consumption.

Automatic leakage detection systems that can monitor water leaks 24/7 indoors and outdoors will be implemented. With automatic detection systems response time will decrease and water savings will increase.

## **Water conservation committee**

The committee is made up of water conservation working group that includes representatives from academia, industry and professional volunteers.