

BIRDS SMALLGOODS



Milan Matovina



Plugging small water leaks Considerable money savings

Business sustainability

Milan Matovina is a senior butcher at Birds Smallgoods, Silverwater.

Milan and his team first heard about the Sydney Water Program after receiving a visit from Auburn Council's Sustainable Business Project Officer.

Council offered to send a representative from Sydney Water out to conduct a free assessment to monitor how much water the business was using and opportunities to save water and therefore the running costs of the business. A water monitoring tag was initially

installed to identify the source of the leaks and to explain why the organisation seemed to be wasting so much water at various times of the day and night. This activity revealed that water usage was peaking when it shouldn't have been, so Sydney Water carried out further investigations and found leaks in water pumps, taps and toilets.

Birds Smallgoods took the Sydney Water assessment seriously and made a series of changes to reduce these water leaks. This included putting a trigger nozzle on a hose in the work area and cutting down on shower times in the smoke houses from 10 minutes to five minutes.

Outcomes

Following the advice provided by Sydney Water through Auburn Council, Birds Smallgoods has implemented a series of small water-saving measures.

Despite these measures being small, the outcomes have been a saving of at least 3,000 litres of water per day, equivalent to a cost saving of \$3,000 per year.

Staff members at Birds Smallgoods have been trained to be more aware of their water usage, including any water leaks, and to notify management as soon as the leaks are noticed to allow them to fix them straight away.



“We saved over \$3,000 a year, which is a considerable amount of money for a small business.”

Milan Matovina, Butcher, Birds Smallgoods

Lessons learned

The main lesson that Milan has learned from this experience with the Sydney Water program is that even the smallest leaks of water throughout the business can be costing the organisation a considerable amount of money.

With the simple plugging of small leaks throughout the business, it is possible, and easy to save money.

Future actions

The organisation soon intends to look at its energy usage through the Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program, to see if there may be some more cost savings to be had.

Business background

Birds Smallgoods is a small goods manufacturer, located in Auburn.

The company manufactures small goods and fresh meats to sell direct to the public, and provides fresh meats wholesale to restaurants, hotels and other commercial businesses.