



SAVING BLUE GOLD – METHODS AND SOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

Water is the most essential element for living beings on the blue planet. The world would shrink to nothing without enough water for drinking, cooking, sanitation and industrial use. As the world is advancing industrially as well as commercially, water is becoming contaminated and scarce. Need of the hour is to preserve this valuable and consume it judiciously. Chandigarh also known as city beautiful situated on the foothills of the magnificent Himalayas in the north western part of India is no exception as far as the problem of water scarcity is concerned. Water auditing is a mechanism for conservation of water which will grow significantly as the demand for water increases [1]. Water audit is also an accounting tool which determines unaccounted amount of water (UAW) in any water distribution system [2]. An onsite survey and assessment of water wastage was undertaken through a water audit of fixtures, equipments and water management strategies at various schools, colleges, hospitals, shopping malls, open markets, houses, parks and gardens, lakes, worship places and roads of the city. The longstanding leaks, faulty fixtures and water wastage points were identified. To reduce wastage of water important recommendations were made [3]. Lesser the use of water, lesser the utility cost. Reducing the use of water is always a profitable proposition, identifying and correcting long standing leaks will help to win half the battle of water conservation. An awareness campaign was also undertaken through human interaction during water auditing process. The findings reveal that public sector buildings such as hospitals, parks, households, educational buildings, had leakages and a malfunctioning water system whereas their private sector counterparts had minimum or no complaints. Accountability seems to be an answer to the existing problem of wastage of blue gold and a part of strategy to save it.

References:

1. Everything about water. www.eawater.com/consulting/water-audit.html
2. www.swfm.state.fp.us/conservation/audit/wateraudits.html
3. Newcomb P.J, Indoor water audits, presentation at the higher education water workshop, February 6 2008

