

Reducing wastage on campus

SMU's efficient use of water resources fulfils its social responsibility

AFTER achieving positive results from measures it began a few years ago to conserve the use of electricity, Singapore Management University (SMU) took a step further to explore options to reduce water consumption.

It fared so well that it clinched the Water Efficient Building (Gold) certification from national water agency PUB this year.

SMU was keen to use the resource more efficiently to reduce costs and wastage, as well as to fulfil its social responsibility, says SMU's senior vice president Sim Teow Hong.

"SMU has various measures to improve water efficiency, which include re-using AHU (air handling unit) condensate at the Administration Building for the cooling tower, and converting from using fixed speed to variable speed drive circulation pumps in the cooling tower," he adds.

The university has also installed remote private water meter systems to monitor its key water usage areas, and established an integrated fault

reporting system to report any leaks and water wastage on campus.

The main challenges in implementing water-efficient measures are educating those on campus to understand the water conservation efforts, bringing in appropriate technical solutions to upgrade its infrastructure and fittings, and identifying areas of water wastage.

It tapped PUB's Water Efficiency Fund for water audit project and feasibility study project for certification to SS 577: 2012 Water Efficiency Management Systems.

"SS 577 has provided the university with a framework to assess and account for water usage, and to identify, plan



and implement measures to achieve water savings through a systematic approach.

"Using this framework, SMU has established a water efficiency management system," says Mr Sim.

"With PUB's funding assistance for meters installation and remote metering, SMU is able to monitor and analyse the water consumption patterns in key water usage areas."

Plans are afoot to explore using high-grade reclaimed water, NEWater, to clean the building's facade. — Suki Lor



With its continuous water conservation efforts, SMU has managed to reduce total water consumption by 24 per cent from 2011 to 2013 and aims to further reduce its water consumption yearly.

— Mr Sim Teow Hong,
senior vice president,
Singapore Management University