

Case Study Further water reduction at Wilkin & Sons – another 10% possible!

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After the FHC water review in 2011 we became much more aware of water, its use, cost and even what we did not know about it! As a result, the site embarked on a water sub-meter installation programme in 2012/13. Over 16 sub-meters have now been installed; the last ones in October 2013. This has enabled us to quantify and monitor all the main points of water use around site.

Apart from providing a good control on the water bills, this data enables us to identify where large amounts of water are being used and take action to reduce consumption. As a result, the average of our key metric, m³ of water per tonne of product, fell by 4.9% from 2012 to 2013 and our aim is to reduce it even further.”

Kevin Townsend, Environmental Officer, Wilkin & Sons Ltd



Wilkin & Sons is a leading manufacturer of quality jams, marmalades, honeys and chutneys, as well as puddings and cakes. Its brands include Tiptree, Thursday Cottage, Jules & Sharpie, Cole's Puddings and Tiptree Patisserie.

Much of the production is undertaken at its Tiptree site. Consequently, the site is a significant water user; in 2012 it was using in excess of 49,000 m³ of water per year.

Since joining the FHC in 2010, Wilkin & Sons have recognised that there is benefit to be gained from improved water efficiency within process operations.

With assistance from the FHC, the site has identified and implemented a number water efficiency measures, including:

- improving water metering and data acquisition;
- addressing 'quick wins' to reduce water use within the process and ancillary activities; and
- training staff to better understand the true cost of water.

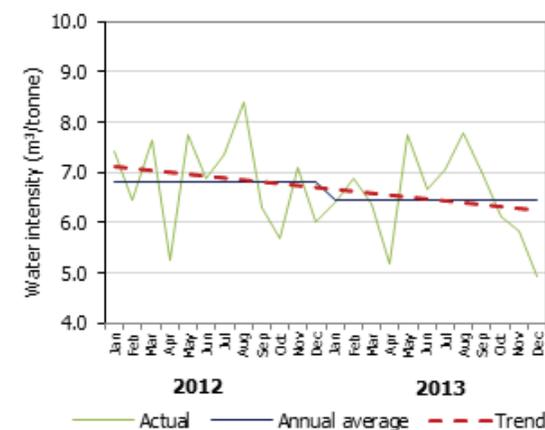
As a result the site achieved a water intensity¹ reduction of 4.9% between 2012 and 2013.

Recognising the need for continual improvement, the company has recently identified further water saving opportunities, such as:

- improving condensate collection and return from some of the steam-heated pans (which will save water and energy);
- reducing the water flow to the cap and bottle washers; and
- fitting an automatic shut-off system on the water supply so that water is turned off when machinery is not operating.

When these opportunities are implemented, further water savings of at least 10% of the site's total water use is expected, with associated annual cost savings in excess of £15,000.

Figure 1. Water intensity¹ trend at Wilkin & Sons' Tiptree site between 2012 and 2013



¹ Water intensity is expressed as water use per tonne of finished product.