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## Rain over Matter

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Lafarge Plasterboard has put their actions behind a drive to save water.

The “Every drop counts” program run by Sydney Water was one of the motivations behind the water savings action plan that was undertaken by the Matraville Plant in Sydney, according to the Country Environmental officer, Alfons Montebello.

“As part of our EPA licence we already had a system in place to collect small amounts of stormwater,” said Alfons. “We’ve expanded that area to incorporate part of the roof area as well and now we’re actually bringing the stormwater into the manufacturing process and using it as a supplement to town-water.”

“The process has been reasonably simple as we’re using the existing downpipes and cutting them off where they were going into the storm-water drains and re-directing them to our stormwater catchment road system. From here the water goes to the silt arrestor pit which was already there but was only being used for our stock-pile dust suppression system.”

According to Alfons, water’s still cheap so there’s no real incentive for companies to save water but Lafarge is glad to be part of this initiative. “For us at Matraville, it’s more a corporate commitment to sustainability as there is not a lot of cost benefits. We are utilising water that is available rather than town water. We can store up to 300,000 litres of water and can use it at 80 litres a minute.”

The Lafarge Group has a commitment to sustainability globally which has been recognised by their selection in the Global 100. Launched in 2005, the annual Global 100 is unveiled each year at the World Economic Forum in Davos and recognises the 100 top companies which are the most committed to sustainable development. Since 2005, Lafarge has been the only company in the building materials sector to rank among the 100 most responsible companies.”

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