

- Water usage in LEED-certified buildings is on average 30% less than in non-LEED buildings.
- “Gray” or reclaimed water can be reused in commercial buildings for irrigation, landscaping, or even sanitation purposes.
- There are local, state, & federal programs that give rebates for installation of efficient toilets, water system controllers, etc.
- Studies have found that installing “waterless” urinals can not only reduce water usage, but also maintenance costs, care and cleaning costs, and the odor emitted compared to a conventional flush urinal is equal if not less.

## May 2008 Topic:

## Water Conservation

“Gray Water” is non-industrial wastewater generated from domestic processes such as hand or dish washing, laundry and bathing. There are many applications for the recycling of gray water. Gray water can be used for irrigation and landscaping purposes. Long term research on gray water use on soil has not yet been done and it is possible that there may be negative impacts on soil productivity. Gray water can also be used for flushing toilets, and it is estimated that such a system could provide a 30% reduction in water use. Devices are currently available that capture heat from gray water, through a process called Drainwater Heat Recovery. Rather than flowing directly into a water heating device, incoming cold water flows first through a heat exchanger where it is pre-warmed by heat from gray water. Typical household devices receiving gray water from a shower can recover up to 60% of the heat that would otherwise go to waste.

For additional information go to: <http://www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/> or <http://www.graywater.net/>

### Did you know? Green Tips for Home

#### How you can reduce water usage in your daily routine:

Turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving can save approximately 3 gallons of water a day. Cutting down your shower time by 1 to 2 minutes can save up to 700 gallons per month. For more information on how to reduce water usage in the bathroom, kitchen, or outdoors visit [www.h2ouse.org/](http://www.h2ouse.org/). For additional facts on water usage and conservation visit: <http://www.monolake.org/waterconservation/>.



### Green Innovation

Product substitutions or value engineering ideas to consider on your next project:

- Install flow restrictors on water lines to be used for sinks, showers, and water fountains.
- Install motion sensors on water closet sinks.
- Install “waterless” urinals in lieu of conventional flush or motion activated urinals.
- Install high efficiency or super high efficiency toilets that utilize 1.6 gallons per flush (GPF) or less.
- Install systems controllers like smart irrigation system controllers or cooling tower conductivity controllers.

### LEED Project Updates

#### Pending LEED Certification

Harvard Medical International – Owner Occupied

- The project team is close to submitting the project to the USGBC for review and certification.

#### In Construction

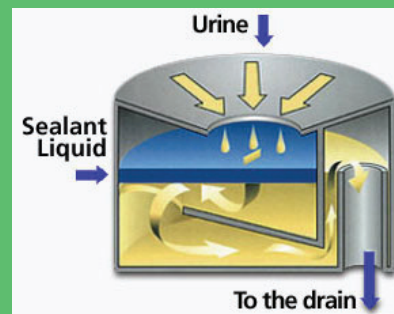
Virgin Money - Currently pursuing LEED Certification.

- Virgin Money is scheduled for occupancy by the end of May.

#### In the Pipeline

Leggat McCall Properties

- The project will pursue LEED Certification. Construction begins in July, 2008.



How waterless urinals work



For further information or suggestions please email Commodore's Green Building Committee at [greenbuildingcommittee@commodorebuilders.com](mailto:greenbuildingcommittee@commodorebuilders.com).