

Imperial College Union

ICU ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY APPENDICES B AND C

Appendix B: Glossary of Water-Reduction Devices

Cistern Dams: Most cisterns use 13 litres of water every flush, whereas 7 litres is ordinarily sufficient. A cistern dam is simply a bag/bottle of water placed in the cistern to reduce the volume used in each flush.

Low-flow, Aerated Showerheads: Low-flow showerheads use water more efficiently meaning that the flow may be reduced to 9 litres per minute (or less for some models), but still giving a good performance. This is often achieved through aeration.

Percussion Taps: Taps that turn off automatically when not in use.

Tap Inserts: These are fitted to existing taps to change the flow pattern to spray and reduce the volume of water used.

Urinal Controls: Sensors that activate flushing only when a person is detected. This reduces water usage since standard urinals flush every few minutes whether they've been used or not. For hygiene reasons, they can usually be set to flush every few hours if the urinals have not been used.

Flow Controls: Valves fitted to pipes supplying basins etc. to reduce flow to required level. These also allow for easy isolation of individual areas for maintenance.

Appendix C: Carbon Hierarchy Approach

The Carbon Hierarchy approach (analogous to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) should be applied when making any significant decisions relating to a carbon-intensive activity (such as aspects of a building-refurbishment programme; the procurement of utilities; the purchasing of electrical or gas-using appliances; the purchase of IC Union vehicles; etc). It is a flexible approach that should allow IC Union's carbon target to be met without compromising the other criteria of each decision.

Each of the following steps should be followed in order: with all realistic solutions under each step being implemented before moving onto the next (i.e. second step solutions should only be utilised if and when all realistic solutions under the first step have been exhausted, etc). Each time the solutions of a step are exhausted, and the next step is considered, an adequate reason as to why the solutions of the previous step were not realistic in this instance must be stated.

- 1) Minimise Demand for the Carbon Service;
 - Reduce the Carbon Service required
 - Maximise the efficiency of Service Provision
 - e.g. by utilising the most energy-efficient materials and design for a building refurbishment project.
- 2) Utilise Zero-Carbon Solutions;
 - Use onsite Renewable Energy Solutions to meet buildings energy demand; then
 - Use offsite Renewable Energy Solutions.
- 3) Utilise Low-Carbon Solutions;
- 4) As a last resort, offset any unavoidable emissions to bring emissions in line with target;
 - By purchasing 100%-Renewable Grid-Electricity;
 - By paying into a good quality 'Carbon Offsetting' fund.