Water: Making concerted conservation and restoration efforts

Reduce our water footprint and enhance water availability in the communities where we operate

Water being a scarce and invaluable natural resource, we are strongly committed to its conservation through the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) approach. We are a signatory to the CEO Water Mandate, since 2014. We are strengthening our water stewardship practices in our operations and extending our efforts to the community.

Our freshwater demand reduced considerably this year owing to remote working. This also resulted in reduced availability of treated wastewater to cater to our flushing, landscaping, and cooling tower requirements. However, we maintained the sewage treatment plants across our India campuses to keep them operational at low loads.

Rainwater harvesting pond in Infosys,Thiruvananthapuram campus

A comprehensive water management strategy devised to achieve water sufficiency. Water usage is reduced through demand side measures and 100% of the wastewater is recycled within our campuses in India.

Rainwater harvesting

Rainwater harvesting is an important part of our water stewardship goal. Rainwater harvesting tanks, recharge wells and artificial lakes are built in our India campuses to reduce external fresh-water dependency. Our campuses in India have 35 lakes/ponds for rainwater harvesting with a holding capacity of ~330 mn liters, and 370 injection wells with a potential to recharge about 18.5 mn liters of rainwater into the ground.

Our efforts on rainwater harvesting have not only improved the local ecosystem within our campuses and reduced our water demand, they also had a positive impact on the surrounding communities by replenishing the groundwater table.

Bringing water intensity down

Our water intensity (water consumption per capita) has reduced significantly over the years. This year, we began tracking our environmental performance against $ revenue. This aligns to most standards that require data to be reported on revenue basis (like BRSR, CDP, etc.). This also allows comparison with our peers.

Some of the water conservation efforts in our Indian campuses include:

- Reducing landscape irrigation demand by advancing landscape planning with lesser grass cover, use of native species and continued development of irrigation infrastructure like automated irrigation, drip irrigation, among others

Ambition

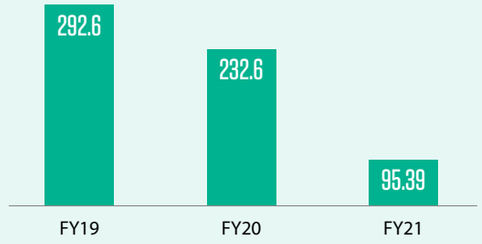
- Maintaining 100% wastewater recycling every year

Rainwater harvesting pond in Infosys, Bengaluru campus

- Used lamella clarifiers to filter and reuse backwash at our Mysuru campus, reducing freshwater requirement by 3%

We ensure that the wastewater we generate is treated in-house in the sewage treatment plants (STPs) that we operate at our large campuses and leased campuses in India. In 2 of our smaller leased offices, with limited space or lesser operational control, the wastewater is discharged into municipal sewers, which undergo further treatment.

Water intensity (kiloliter/US$ mn revenue)



CASE STUDY

Restoring Hebbal Lake and helping nurture biodiversity

Concern

The Hebbal Lake in Mysuru spans 40+ acres and is in the Hebbal Industrial area. It has been home to many migratory birds. But gradually, the lake lost its glory to massive urbanization and continuous flow of sewage caused by residential and industrial establishments.

Approach

We collaborated with the Mysuru administration to rejuvenate and restore the lake. The project involved de-silting, fencing lake boundaries, building a bund and walking path around the lake, together with, tree plantation and beautification of its surroundings. We set up a sewage treatment plant (STP) next to the lake to treat the wastewater entering the lake. The state-of-the-art STP with membrane bioreactor (MBR) technology and smart automation has a capacity to treat 8 mn liters per day and was commissioned in September 2020. The STP ensures that wastewater is treated to the highest standards, conforming to the Central Pollution Control Board norms, before being let into the lake.

Outcome

Today, the lake has regained its charm, with thriving biodiversity of flora and fauna, and is once again host to several migratory birds. It provides a perfect ecosystem for nature lovers.

Hebbal Lake rejuvenation in Mysuru is among the biggest lake conservation projects under the public-private partnership (PPP) model of Karnataka. The project serves as a benchmark for district administrations and governments in protecting lakes and treating wastewater effectively.

Hebbal Lake, Mysuru - Before rejuvenation

Hebbal Lake, Mysuru - After rejuvenation

CASE STUDY

Integrated water management

Infosys Crescent, our 10-acre campus located in Electronics City Phase-1, Bengaluru is a showcase for integrated water management. Water demand is minimized by measures like low-flow fixtures, dual flush toilets, pressure regulating valves and smart metering, this will result in about 47% savings during operations when compared with the National Building Code norms.

A subsoil drainage system below the basement parking ensures no water pressure on the structure, thereby also collecting subsoil water for use in landscaping and cleaning. Rainwater from the terrace is collected in rainwater harvesting tanks and used for potable purposes. One-third of the freshwater requirement of the campus in monsoon months (May-October) is expected to be met through rainwater. Surface rainwater (from roads and landscape) is recharged into the ground through 20 injection wells on the campus. All the wastewater generated in the campus is treated using an in-house Sewage Treatment Plant and the recycled water is used for flushing, landscaping and cooling tower makeup water requirement, making the campus a zero-discharge facility.

Crescent campus, Infosys Bengaluru