Every drop of water counts

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One business taking part in the water saving initiative is the Watsons Bay Hotel, which has introduced a range of measures to conserve water.

They have installed low-flow aerators on taps, watch carefully for leaks, and make sure staff and customers are aware of the need to conserve water.

The result has been a significant reduction in water bills.

"I think based on what we've done, it's a noticeable difference," said the hotel's general manager, Nat Baker. "I'd say (there's been a bill reduction of) anywhere up to 40 per cent. I'd imagine that a lot of big old buildings in Woollahra have a lot of issues with leaks and pipes. We had a few of those; we've rectified them and I imagine that makes a massive difference."

"Obviously it's going to benefit us in the first place and if we can save so much water it might show other people they can do it too," he said.

Another Woollahra resident who lives a water-frugal life is Cr Chris Howe, whose Vaucluse home is carbon neutral, running off solar power and recycled water.

"We have a very extensive water conservation design which means that, even at times of severe drought, we are only using water for kitchen and drinking purposes. Everything else - the garden, laundry, pool - is on recycled water," he said.

"I think at the end of the day, every individual has a responsibility for their ecological footprint and, certainly in this area, the three biggest factors are transport, energy and water use," he said.