

Why is an ECOplus[®] Greywater Recycling System ‘GREEN’?

- 1) **ECOplus[®] saves water** – *up to 70%* of a household’s use (**50%** of an *average* Auckland household according to Metrowater figures). It saves the greywater (washing machine, bath and shower) and uses this water for toilet flushing and garden watering so that high quality drinking water is not wasted. Water shortage is one of the top three global problems, ranking alongside climate change and peak oil in terms of seriousness. We can live without oil, but we can’t live without water. New Zealand has regular water shortages. Many of the countries which currently are considered short of water used to believe that they had plenty. We’re lucky in NZ, but not so lucky that we can waste drinking water on flushing toilets and watering gardens.
- 2) **Less water used means less wastewater produced** – *for every person* connected to the Auckland sewerage system, **3m³** of wastewater (diluted with stormwater) is released into the environment every year. The system is overloaded and recycling greywater can help. Greywater recycling also makes on-site systems (eg rainwater tanks and septic tanks) more effective: there’s a reduced need to buy-in water and septic tanks perform better and have a longer life, meaning less pollution of the environment, safer waterways and less pressure to reticulate.
- 3) **Less water used means less carbon emitted** – the Auckland councils produce around a **third** of their carbon emissions as a result of their water services. Think about the embodied energy in the Waikato pipeline, then think about the energy required to pump the water all that distance and over the hills. There’s also energy used treating the water and delivering to your house – and removing and treating the wastewater. This concept has been termed ‘**water miles**’. New sources of water will tend to require more energy since the easiest, closest sources have already been exploited. Greywater recycling reduces the need for new water sources and the water doesn’t have far to travel to be used again. Power consumption for the ECOplus[®] is minimal – or it can be solar powered!

Isn’t it expensive though?

The ECOplus[®] is a good investment financially. In Auckland City an average household that bought an ECOplus[®] with their credit card would **save more money off their water bill than the repayments would cost** (though it would be more sensible to borrow against the mortgage, or through a lender like **Promethius**, where the rates are better and the savings bigger).

Waitakere City council recognise the value of greywater recycling, inviting ECOplus[®] to be on their steering committee which aims to reduce water consumption. This is because water services constitute **over a third of the general rates bill!**

Hawke’s Bay councils have long recognised the benefit of ECOplus[®] in saving water and reducing the burden on wastewater systems. This year they awarded ECOplus[®] with the prestigious **Hawke’s Bay Environmental Award** for *Best Product or Service*.

Even if you don’t get council water or wastewater services, ECOplus[®] can save you money, by reducing or eliminating the need for tanker water, and extending the life of your septic tank. Don’t replace a ‘failing’ septic tank until you talk to us – greywater recycling can fix it!