

## POTENTIAL USES FOR RECLAIMED WATER

The City of Cornelia's Water Pollution Control Plant uses reclaimed water from its effluent to operate many of the treatment systems at the plant. Reclaimed water is used to operate the belt press for washing of the belt and mixing with polymer to coagulate the sludge. It is used to wash down the belt press, clarifiers, effluent contact chamber, and many other areas of the plant. It is also used to mix with chemicals for operations of the plant such as lime and PAC. It is used to spray down the clarifiers to help keep solids from forming on the top. The W.P.C.P. uses reclaimed water everywhere we are capable to use the water instead of using potable water. This helps to conserve the potable water (drinking water) so that we cut down on unnecessary use of our most precious resource. The City is not allowed to use the reclaimed water outside of the W.P.C.P. for any other purposes, but there are many ways you as a citizen of Cornelia can reuse your water.

As a citizen, you can help to conserve water by saving your water from your home to water plants, gardens and flush toilets. You can help by saving the water from your bath tubs, showers, and sinks to use for these purposes. You can also place catch barrels under downspouts from your gutters to use for these purposes. Every little bit counts and together we can make a big difference.

Another way that is becoming more popular is by taking all of your used water from your sinks, bath tubs, showers, dish washers, and washing machine and running it through a filter system. This is called greywater which makes up 60% of the outflow produced in homes. It contains little or no pathogens and 90% less nitrogen than black water (toilet water). Because of this, it does not require the same treatment process. By designing plumbing systems to separate greywater from black water it can be recycled through filters for irrigation, toilets, and exterior washing, resulting in water conservation. For more information on greywater visit the EPA's web site at [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au) or call the EPD and give them this reference number 03 9695 2722.

Two of the City's biggest industries Fieldale Farms and Ethicon have also joined in on conserving water. In November of 2006 Fieldale put in a water reclamation system in that cut their consumption by almost 400,000 gallons of water a day. By doing this Fieldale has reduced their daily water consumption by almost 25%. Ethicon has found ways to conserve water as well. Ethicon has increased their production from 5 days a week to 7 days a week 24 hours a day over the past two years. Ethicon's water consumption has remained the same. They accomplished this by taking two old boilers out and replacing them with two high efficiency boilers with micro turbines. They also put heat exchangers on their cooling towers to reduce evaporation. New rinse water systems have replaced old rinse water systems in their process to reduce rinse water by 2-3 gallons per minute. It's great to have industries who aware of the need to conserve water and always looking for opportunities to do so.

The combination of the City, the citizens, and the industries of Cornelia working together can make a big difference in helping to conserve water. Let's join in and continue to look for new ways to help conserve our most precious resource **WATER**.