



Increasing water efficiency at a 'higher water risk' shopping centre in Spain

In 2010, Sonae Sierra applied the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Global Water Tool to all sites in our operational and development portfolios. The Global Water Tool allows companies to map their water use and assess risks relative to their global operations by comparing a company's sites with water and sanitation data on a country and watershed basis. The shopping centre we identified as being most at risk from water scarcity was Plaza Mayor in Spain.

In 2010, we implemented a landscape plan aimed at reducing the water used in Plaza Mayor's gardens. This included replacing grass areas with autochthonous plants that require minimum watering whilst preserving the aesthetic qualities of the landscape. As a result of these improvements in 2010, Plaza Mayor's water efficiency was 3.5 litres per visit, compared to 4.8 in 2009, representing a 27% improvement. Water resources in the Murcia region where Dos Mares is located are also sparse. Although Dos Mares was already one of our most water efficient centres, in 2010 we set ourselves the challenging target to reduce water consumption by a further 30% in common parts areas at the shopping centre by 2011.

In early November, we installed a pipeline on the shopping centre roof to harvest condensation from the air conditioning units. This water is then reused to flush toilets in the centre. This system enabled us to reduce water consumption in toilets by 28% in November and December 2010 compared to the same time period in 2009.