



Wessex Water - setting a new benchmark for sustainable design

UK-based water and waste water company Wessex Water has created a new operations centre which reflects its commitment to sustainability and energy conservation.

Built on a site covering 28,500m² on the outskirts of Bath, the two-storey office was designed by award-winning architects Bennetts Associates in London.

Housing around 500 staff, the building comprises three parallel wings providing an office area of approximately 10,000m².

The wings are linked by an enclosed 'street' that not only provides informal meetings areas but also access to a café, restaurant and meeting and training rooms.

Key environmental features of the building include:

- natural ventilation
- solar panels heat water
- rainwater recycled to flush toilets
- energy efficient lighting triggered by sensors.

The following estimates of the building's performance reflects its sustainability:

- annual energy consumption - 100kWhr/m²/annum
- heating and hot water - 50 kWhr/m²/annum
- cooling mechanical equipment - 10 kWhr/m²/annum
- lighting - 12 kWhr/m²/annum
- small power - 20 kWhr/m²/annum
- annual emissions of CO² - 36.39 kg/CO²/m²/annum
- annual consumption of potable water - 4.48m³/person/annum.

The building is one of very few to achieve an 'excellent' rating from the Building Research Establishment, BRE.

It has also achieved an environmental performance index of 10 - the highest possible.

