



Letter from the Editor:

Did you know that you may be able to earn LEED points by incorporating water conservation measures during building or renovation efforts? Many businesses have already moved to conserve water by using devices like low-flow faucets. However, more can be done to save money and save the environment. Innovative technologies for water conservation and re-use offer the newest frontier for gaining additional LEED points. Read on to discover three exciting products that will increase water efficiency in your next project.

Lori Eichel
President
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Consider Installing Rainwater Harvesting Systems

Rainwater is often overlooked as a source for clean, fresh water. Rainwater harvesting systems are designed to collect, filter and redirect water for use in efficient, low cost irrigation. The systems harvest water runoff from all catchment surfaces, such as roofs, parking lots and grassy areas. The water is filtered and piped to a large underground storage tank for re-use. The storage tank provides a significant source of water for irrigation and the system provides control of storm water runoff, offering an alternative to retention ponds. Visit the web site of FreeRain, a local company offering sophisticated rainwater harvesting systems for businesses and municipalities. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Greywater Recycling System Saves Water and Money

The BRAC CGW Commercial Systems are a complete all-in-one greywater recycling system that captures the greywater from laundry facilities, showers and bathtubs and reuses it to flush toilets. Designed for offices, apartments, government buildings, hotels, and schools, the system has an in-ground holding tank, in-ground primary and secondary filters, a managed chlorination system and water counters for both fresh water and greywater to show water consumption and savings. Brac's

systems offer a wide range of commercial applications that can assist architects, engineers, and developers in achieving green building goals by contributing to water efficiency and waste water reduction. Learn more about the system [here](#).

Smart Controllers Use the Power of the Internet to Control Water

While capturing and reusing water makes good environmental sense, it is also critical to control the amount of overall water usage. A new web-based "smart" controller system has been developed to control irrigation water use. By integrating current weather data and horticultural science with web-based technology, the system automates and optimizes landscape watering schedules, automatically adjusting to avoid overwatering or watering during a rainstorm. A runoff control algorithm eliminates wasteful runoff and remote monitoring and management reduces the need for frequent site visits. Learn more [here](#).

The installation of systems like these conserves water efficiently, resulting in less waste and significant cost savings in the long run. Any of these water conservation systems are an excellent way to reduce environmental impact-with or without LEED certification.

Green Building News is brought to you by Accent Construction, a full service commercial general contractor focused on providing environmentally-friendly tenant finish for office buildings and medical facilities. Their expertise in reuse/recycle efforts affords clients cost effective and innovative solutions.

Accent is the only general contractor in the state of North Carolina to be awarded the EPA Waste Wise partner status and is the only commercial general contractor in North Carolina engaged in separating building materials for recycling and reuse on a consistent basis.

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