

# PEACHLAND VIEW

## RDCO and water board team up for huge savings

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Reclaiming and reusing water at the Westside Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant is saving water and money, according to the Regional District of the Central Okanagan (RDCO).

Since a water reclamation project was completed this summer, there's been a dramatic reduction in the amount of potable drinking water needed for everyday use around the Gellatly Road plant.

"We've always used a small amount of treated plant effluent water around the facility but we were using a vast amount of treated, potable drinking water," said RDCO communications officer Bruce Smith. "With the grant, we were able to substantially upgrade our system by retrofitting two existing pumps; purchasing and installing new filters that use minimal electricity and water for backwashing and converting plumbing from the treated drinking water system to use the newly filtered treated plant water in appropriate areas of the plant."

"As a result, we've significantly decreased our use of regular quality drinking water and we've seen our water bill plummet," he added.

Last summer, the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant used 3,212 cubic metres of potable drinking water, a drop of 67 per cent from the same period in 2012, before the water reclamation project. Now that the expanded water reclamation system is in place, over the course of a year, the plant's total water consumption is expected to drop by at least 25,000 cubic metres, saving about \$12,000 a year.

The water treatment plant treats a daily average of nine million litres of wastewater from homes and businesses in West Kelowna, Peachland and the Westbank First Nation Reserves #9 and #10.

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