



## CaseStudy

### Challenge

The Shoprite Group of Companies (Shoprite) is a major retailer operating throughout the African continent. Shoprite has 261 stores, 8 distribution centres and 3 offices in the Western Cape, with its headquarters in Cape Town. In response to the unprecedented Western Cape drought, Shoprite developed a water crisis plan in order to maintain operations under water-scarce conditions.

### Solution

In 2018, having already installed water storage tanks, incentivised staff to reduce water consumption and suspended on-site irrigation, Shoprite developed a water crisis plan. 3 154 water-saving devices were installed in ablution, kitchen, and service areas across 183 Western Cape sites saving ~2 000 kl/month. Water meters were installed at 46 sites to monitor water use and detect leaks, resulting in a saving of ~528 kl/month. Alternative water supply was provided via 349 water storage tanks and 474 water booster pumps across 127 stores. Water-use data have been captured using an online monitoring and reporting system and ablution facilities were retrofitted with waterless urinals.

### Business benefits

Shoprite reduced water use intensity (l/m<sup>2</sup>) by 8.7% between July 2018 – June 2019. Shoprite Western Cape now uses 2 528 kilolitres less water per month across all retail, distribution centre and office premises.

<b>Monthly Business Water Savings</b>	<b>2 528 kilolitres</b>
<b>Water intensity reduction rate (l/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>8.7 %</b>
<b>Total capital investment</b>	<b>R 6.3 million*</b>

\* Includes water-saving devices and water meters and excludes water storage tank and booster pump costs



## Reducing water use in the retail sector

### Shoprite

Cape Town, Western Cape

**Shoprite reduced water use intensity by 8.7% between July 2018 and June 2019 through water harvesting, treatment and efficiency technologies.**

### Lessons learned and plans for the future

Shoprite has used its experience of the Western Cape drought to inform a nationwide water-saving programme that is risk-based and cost-effective. Plans include license applications for drilling and use of borehole water and installation of water treatment plants at certain properties to meet drinking water demands. New build properties will contain rain-, ground- and subsoil-water harvesting infrastructure with water-wise gardens. The water captured from these three sources will be treated for reuse within stores. In addition, Shoprite has implemented the use of alternative and treated recycled water across its international properties for on-site irrigation purposes.

### For your business to also benefit...

1. Visit our business drought support page for info on how to get started:  
[www.greencape.co.za/water-business-support](http://www.greencape.co.za/water-business-support)
2. Become a GreenCape member and receive industry updates, news and events info:  
<https://www.greencape.co.za/become-a-member/>