

Press Release

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Greywater helps save up to 26% drinking water consumption in apartment buildings After its success on the Botanica K residential project in Prague 5, Skanska is planning to install greywater recycling technology in the Čertův vršek residential project in Prague 8.

Botanica K was the first in the Czech Republic to be certified BREEAM Excellent (an international environmental certification) as well as the first to introduce its residents to a greywater management system. The system takes used water from sinks, baths and showers and reuses it especially for toilet flushing. This lets households lower drinking water consumption by up to 26%. Skanska plans to put its experience to work on its next residential project, Čertův vršek, and is prepared to share this experience with the professional public so that legal standards and hygiene and construction regulations can be updated to reflect this new technology.

“The Botanica K project was a breakthrough for us in many ways, as we planned it from the outset to get the prestigious BREEAM environmental certification. This involved careful planning for drinking water management, and we managed to lower drinking water consumption by up to 40% in two ways. Installing water-saving fixtures cut drinking water consumption by about 14%. We recycled part of the wastewater from sinks, baths and showers for greywater, which we then put to use especially for flushing toilets. This let us cut drinking water consumption by another 26%,” states Petr Dušta, project manager for Skanska Reality, who oversaw the Botanica K residential complex in Jinonice, Prague.

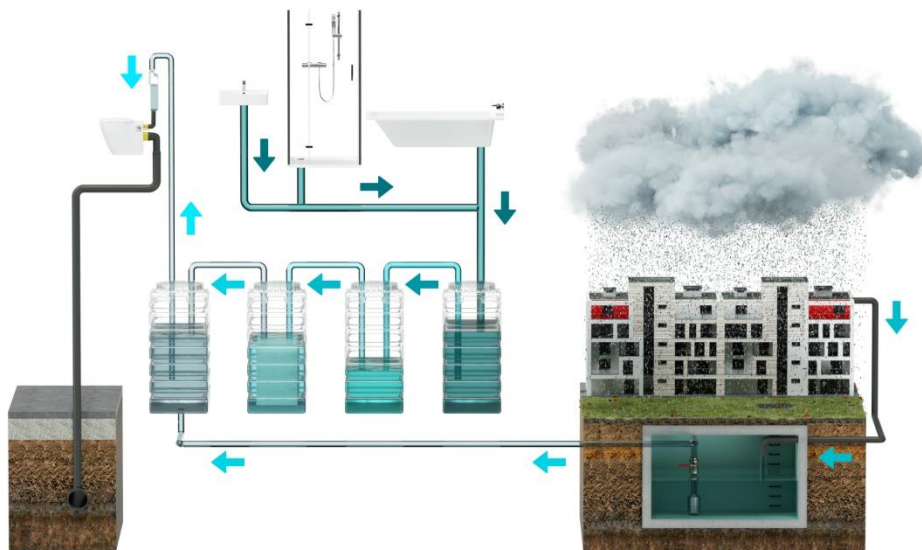
Drinking water recycling technology tests in 2018:

- In 2018, the Botanica K project **reused 26% of its overall drinking water consumption.**
In absolute numbers, the total amount of drinking water used in the building was 4 834 m³ and of that amount, 1,241 m³ (1,241,000 liters) of greywater was used for flushing toilets. **That’s the amount of water it would take to fill a standard-size tub of 150 liters every day for 22.5 years. The drinking water saved would fill 75 tanks of 16 m³ each.**

- Out of the total greywater production, 53.10% was used for flushing toilets, and 48.30% of all drinking water coming into the building was used for greywater production.

“In our view, conserving drinking water is one of the most important things we can do to protect the environment, which is why we undertook this difficult – but ultimately successful – plan to recycle drinking water in our residential projects. After its success on Botanica K, we plan to install this system on Čertův vršek and other projects. As the first in the Czech Republic to undertake such a project, we are planning to share the experience we gained along the way (in approval processes for the plans, hygiene and construction) so that the relevant regulations and standards can be adapted to accommodate this new technology,” comments Petr Michálek, CEO of Skanska Reality.

Attachment: infographic for recycling drinking water as greywater



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