

Delaying Day Zero

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Water is a valuable commodity. It has been said that the third world war will be fought over water. It is a resource that is quickly running out, as Cape Town is set to become the first city to run out of water. The world has its eyes on the water crisis in the Cape with "day zero" looming. Fortunately, drastic cutbacks on water usage by Capetonian residents, businesses and the agricultural sector have secured a month's extension on the taps running dry. The new "day zero" date has reportedly been set as 9 July 2018.



During such a time it is imperative that the hospitality and business sectors across the Cape do their part to save water. Cape Town thrives on its tourism industry, which supplies approximately 300,000 jobs. This valuable sector needs to do what it can to protect this workforce and ensure that tourists can visit the Mother City without fear of contributing to the water crisis.

To conserve fresh water, some hotels have filled their swimming pools with sea water. Hotels have also been recommended to encourage their guests not to bath but to take short showers instead. These showers should be set to low pressure. In hotels that do not have showers (and even those that do) it has been advised to save the bath (or shower) water to be used for flushing the toilet. However, the toilet should not be flushed every time; the city is having to ascribe to the old adage; "if it's yellow, let it mellow".

According to industry expert, John J Coetzee, this is seemingly problematic with the health risks. "Large businesses, specifically in the industrial sector and in the hospitality sector, are dealing with the waste of hundreds if not thousands of people. These industries in turn need to take steps to ensure the health of themselves, their staff and their clientele – all while ensuring water is saved."



Products such as Albion Brands' Albex™ Noflush spray and Green Worx Cleaning Solutions' Biotech™ Bathroom Cleaner, which utilise specialised bio-enzymatic formulae, can be used to spray into the toilet or urinals to eradicate bad bacteria by means of the bio-enzyme technology, while removing malodours. According to Shelley Snyman, Marketing Manager at Albion; "Albex™ Noflush is an environmentally friendly and biodegradable toilet water neutraliser made from multi-stain bacillus spores, a blend of six specific enzymes and plant-based surfactants... You can save 6,800 litres of clean water with every 500ml bottle of Albex™ Noflush."

According to environmental scientist Kevin Winter, preemptive measures could have been taken. "The diversification of our water sources would have helped a whole lot... It is difficult to do that because you sometimes need these triggers to be able to change the budgetary system and be able to think differently about a long-term strategy". Albion, in partnership with Green Worx Cleaning Solutions recently donated hundreds of litres of water to Water4Paws, this water is being sent to help the animals in the Western Cape. Other initiatives such as Water 4 Cape Town are accepting online donations to fund their efforts.

According to the department of Water Affairs' weekly report, last week saw the dam levels in the Western Cape falling to 23.7% deepening the crisis in its critical stage. As citizens and businesses take extra precautionary steps to preserve what little water is left, there is also a strong call on the rest of the country, and world, to do what it can to share resources.

About Green Worx Cleaning Solutions

Green Worx Cleaning Solutions is ISO 14001, Global GreenTag, SABS and Green Building Council of South Africa (GBSCA) certified and supplies innovative, environmentally responsible, biotechnology products based on the use of natural microbes and enzymes. In such, Green Worx supplies green cleaning and sanitation consulting and solutions, pollution control and environmental remediation products to industrial and commercial entities, as well as to consumers. Green Worx prides itself on its associations with global leaders providing innovative, effective and high-quality products and solutions to meet specific customer needs.

In 2016 Green Worx was presented with the Award for runner up in the Green Technology Innovation category of the Mail & Guardian (M&G) Greening the Future Awards. In the same year, the company won the 2016 South African Frost & Sullivan Award for New Product Innovation. In 2017, Green Worx won the “Green Business Award” at the Mauritian African Leadership Awards, and was declared a finalist in both the Sustainability Blank Canvas and Management of Systems awards categories, in The Da Vinci tt100 Business Innovation Awards Programme.

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