

Port of: Santander Port Authority

Country: Spain

Contact person: Susana Rubio Pardo

Position: Environment Responsible (management representative)

Email: [susana@puertosantander.com](mailto:susana@puertosantander.com)

Environmental issue: Rainwater treatment

Relevance to the 5 Es framework of the ESPO Green Guide:

Exemplify

### **USE OF RAINWATER IN SANTANDER PORT AUTHORITY**

Santander Port authority used to utilise tap water for the cleaning of the port area. This had both economic and environmental negative consequences.

The solution consists of gathering rainwater from warehouse roofs, storing it in two deposits of 160 m<sup>3</sup> and 935 m<sup>3</sup>, to be used for the following: to clean the port area, to dampen dusty materials and in emergency situations (fire, etc.)

The objective is to use a natural resource which is otherwise wasted and reduce the cost of using tap water.

The system works as follows: the rainwater is collected from the warehouse roof and stored in two deposits. For one of the deposits, part of the rainwater flows down a drainpipe and part is gathered by a pump from the ground. For the other one, only water from the warehouse roof is collected. Any dust or particles in the rainwater settles at the bottom of the deposits. The deposits have several valves to supply the water to the cleaning or emergency vehicles. If there is not enough rainwater in the deposits, tap water is automatically supplied to the deposits to guarantee the continuity of the services.

The procedure is controlled by a computer system. Thus, the overall consumption of water and how much of this water is rainwater is monitored.

The sustainable management of the port areas must be focused towards “that which allows the volume of traffic to grow while reducing the consumption of natural resources and energy...” Making use of rainwater for cleaning is an efficient and sustainable solution.

Links:

Illustrations: Rainwater deposit of 160 m<sup>3</sup>





