



**GEMI**<sup>®</sup>

**Collecting the Drops:**

**A Water Sustainability Planner**

## Case Example

### **The Procter & Gamble Company: Augmenting the Water Treatment Process for Multiple Savings at a German Plant**

*The Procter and Gamble Company's (P&G) focus on pollution prevention has resulted in a 37 percent reduction in waste, air and water emissions from its manufacturing plants since 1990. An innovative water reuse program at a P&G manufacturing plant in Germany demonstrates how the company is achieving these gains on a case-by-case basis.*

Evaluating its water usage, P&G's Euskirchen plant discovered it could save significant amounts of both water and money by installing a second water treatment unit. It is a reverse osmosis system with a storage vessel. It enabled the plant to reduce the amount of drinking-quality water used in industrial processes and in plant heating and cooling systems.

This reduced overall water usage as well as the need for water treatment chemicals and regeneration salt for the water softener. In financial terms, the savings included EUR 33,000 (\$43,000 USD) spent on potable water previously used because the industrial water didn't meet the process specifications, EUR 22,000 (\$28,000) spent on exchanging water in the cooling towers, EUR 45,000 (\$58,000) spent on extra chemicals needed to prepare water for the cooling towers, along with EUR 79,000 (\$103,000) spent on wastewater disposal.

The new system also reduced the amount of manual labor required to operate the water treatment unit. Efficiency of the new unit resulted in a 192,000-euro (\$250,000) reduction in the total cost of getting products to consumers. The rate of return on the investment was 50 percent, with the investment expected to pay out in 1.5 years.

