

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RECEIVES FUNDS TO OPTIMIZE WATER USE

Ensuring reliable hospital operations

Recently, the [Western Cape Provincial Department of Health](#) received an award of \$214,000, comprised of \$100,000 from Microsoft Sustainability, \$100,000 from the [Community Empowerment Fund](#), and \$14,000 from the local subsidiary. The funds will be used to install smart water meters at 53 public hospitals in the Cape Town, South Africa region. These meters provide greater visibility into water consumption to ensure that hospitals can remain operational despite a water crisis.

Mitigating local water crises

Having functional hospitals at all times during a water crisis is essential to saving lives, and sustainable water use is crucial for the survival of the region. The Western Cape region was faced with three straight years of minimal rain and reservoirs only 10% full. In order to prevent a complete shut-off of water taps, Microsoft partnered with local officials and organizations to determine which

conservation efforts would be most impactful, ultimately developing a plan to install new water meters at local hospitals. Smart water meters provide tremendous visibility into water and energy usage through a reporting dashboard, proactively monitoring leaks, pressure, and usage to enable repair or water tanker services to be immediately deployed. This project will cover the costs of 58 smart water meters themselves, installation, reporting, and the first year of maintenance. The project will affect nearly 10,000 beds, impacting about 100,000 people per month, and is estimated to save 6.4 million kiloliters of water per year.

Enabling continued water sustainability

Microsoft will engage with an NGO to assist in project delivery. The NGO will also be utilized to facilitate knowledge transfer around sustainable water use, ensuring that the project's best practices will continue to impact the community.

