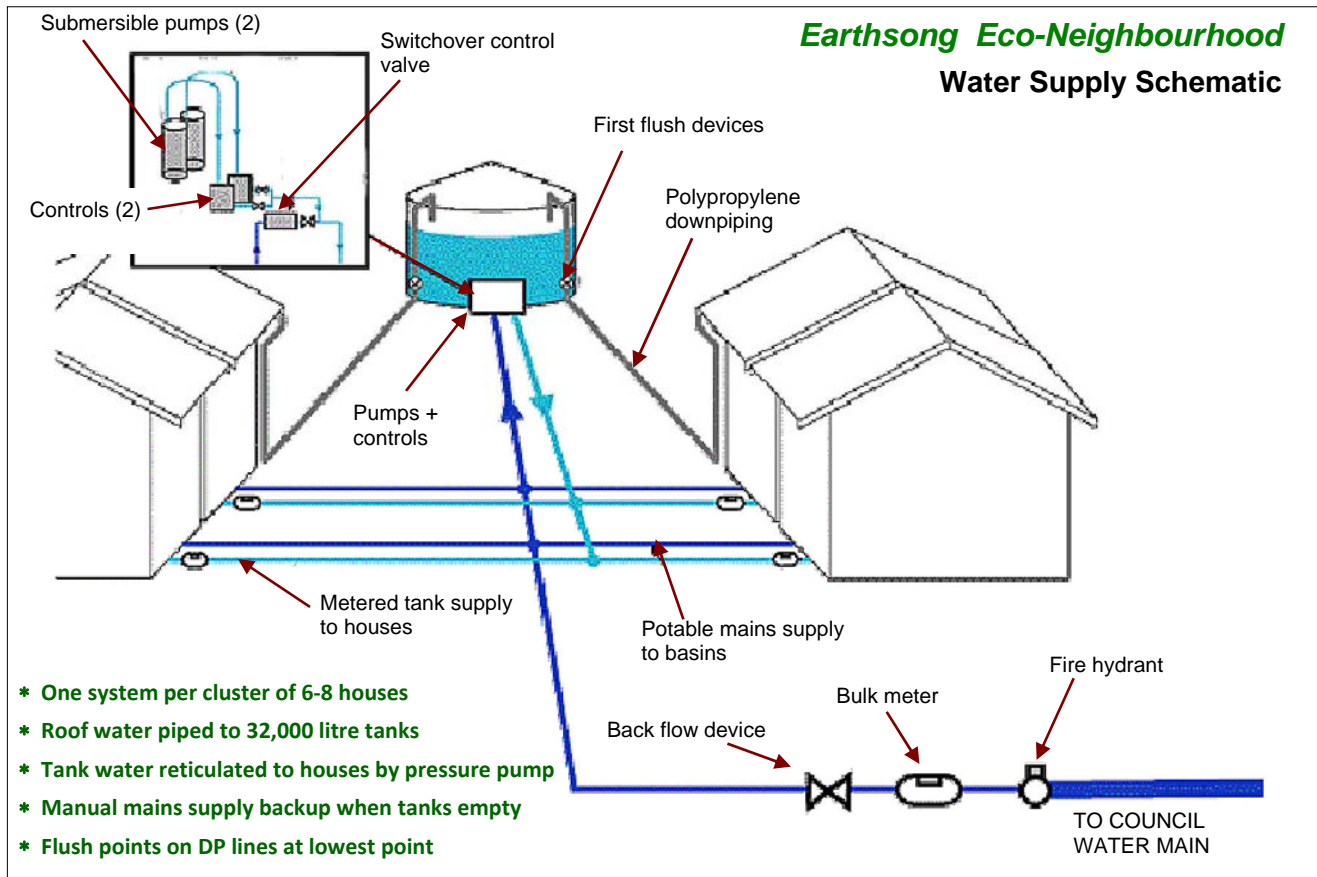




Water Supply

By collecting the rain that falls on our roofs we reduce our demand on expensive council supplies, and also reduce the amount of clean water that is piped off the site to impact on streams and harbours.



Rainwater from the roofs runs via polypropylene downpipes to six water tanks dotted around the site. Tank water is piped back to houses for washing, flushing WCs and hot water needs. Drinking water is supplied to houses from the city water main.

One 32,000 litre (7000 gallon) water tank per 6 or 7 houses provides 60% of annual water needs. In dry periods when the tank runs empty, all of the water comes from city water supplies.

It is important to also reduce consumption. Houses are fitted with low flow shower heads and 3/6 litre dual flush WCs, and all other taps are pre-set to 7 litres/min. With awareness of conservation and water-efficiency measures an average Earthsong household's water use is 72% of the equivalent Auckland household. Because most of this comes from our tanks, total water costs per household are only 54% of the Auckland average.

