

INNOVATION GATEWAY

Kingfisher Challenge Selection
Round 1, 2019

Innovator Briefs



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Products that enable rainwater harvesting/grey water for domestic use

The challenge

Domestic rainwater harvesting is a well-known solution for conserving water, but the predominant implementation is for outdoor use, such as watering the garden.

The challenge is to find products that will allow customers to simply and effectively use harvested rainwater inside the home.

The solutions we are seeking

Applications of interest include using the harvested water for toilet flushing or laundry water.

Solutions should not require a large amount of effort to install, function and maintain.

Solutions should clearly demonstrate that they are able to comply with all associated safety and regulatory requirements related to storing rainwater internally.

Further information

There have been previous attempts to sell products that use grey water for functions such as toilet flushing, but due to strict regulations these products are not suitable for all of Kingfisher's markets.

Solutions that employ grey water or rainwater must clearly display how they satisfy all necessary regulations to be considered.

Selection criteria

- Installation via DIY as opposed to a specialist trader is preferable.
- The solution must comply with Kingfisher's sustainable home product guidelines.
- Kingfisher would prefer that spare parts, where appropriate, are available to enable the customer to maintain their product.
- The cost of the solution will make it accessible to the average household.
- A product that could be sold across all markets would be optimal. Kingfisher's primary markets are the UK, France and Poland.
- Ideally the solution will be market-ready. However, less developed innovations are still of interest if the innovator would be happy to collaborate with Kingfisher's existing third-party manufacturers/supply chain.

Gadgets for reducing domestic water consumption

The challenge

Domestic water conservation has beneficial implications for both the environment and customers' finances.

The challenge is to find simple gadgets which allow customers to effectively and easily decrease their water consumption and increase their household sustainability.

The solutions we are seeking

The solution should be usable anywhere water use is liable to be excessive – for example in the bathroom or kitchen.

There are a number of products on the market already, so the ideal solution would clearly display its innovation and effectiveness.

The solution will be simple to install, whilst fun, imaginative and inspiring to a consumer.

Further information

Kingfisher sell a wide range of simple water saving devices, from plugs and washing up bowls, to regulators for taps. An easy to use and easy to install solution, regardless of its technological complexity, will be of interest.

Selection criteria

- Simple installation and ease of use.
- The solution must be able to demonstrate an effective reduction of water consumption.
- The solution must comply with Kingfisher's sustainable home product guidelines.
- The cost of the solution will make it accessible to the average household.
- A product that could be sold across all markets would be optimal. Kingfisher's primary markets are the UK, France and Poland.
- Ideally the solution will be market-ready. However, less developed innovations are still of interest if the innovator would be happy to collaborate with Kingfisher's existing third-party manufacturers/supply chain.

Outdoor treated wood

The challenge

Kingfisher sell a vast array of wooden products with outdoor applications, including garden furniture, storage and plant pots.

The commercial wood they use must be treated with chemical preservatives for protection from moisture, decay and fungal/insect attack. Many of the preservatives used are concerns to human health and the environment and Kingfisher wish to remove them from their supply chain.

The challenge is to locate a source of treated wood that avoids the use of harmful chemicals.

The solutions we are seeking

Potential solutions could include:

- Formaldehyde / isocyanate free MDF/HDF that can resist outdoor environments
- Outdoor wood resistant to fungus, insect, and rot without harmful chemical treatment such as heavy metals and biocides.

Further information

Previous composite solutions have been a successful offering for Kingfisher, but there are end of life concerns associated with these products.

Selection criteria

- The product must have demonstrable water-resistant qualities.
- The recyclability of the wood at end of life is an important factor.
- The wood must comply with Kingfisher's responsibly sourced wood and paper policy.
- Low cost is preferred but there may be certain applications for higher priced solutions.
- A product that could be sold across all markets would be optimal. Kingfisher's primary markets are the UK, France and Poland.
- Ideally the solution will be market-ready. However, less developed innovations are still of interest if the innovator would be happy to collaborate with Kingfisher's existing third-party manufacturers/supply chain.

Indoor composting

The challenge

Food waste is a growing problem for customers and the environment, with over 7 million tonnes discarded annually. The decomposition of this food waste in landfills contributes to greenhouse gas emissions.

Homeowners and tenants of urban areas generally struggle to recycle/compost food, due to lack of space or no support from their local authorities. For customers who do have facilities to recycle/compost food, concerns regarding smell or pests often discourage them.

The challenge is to find solutions for indoor food waste recycling/composting, which are compact, simple to install and easy to use.

The solutions we are seeking

A product could be stored under sinks or in utility rooms. Also of interest are solutions that can be stored outdoors on a balcony or in a garage.

Solutions that address the issues of odour or risks of pests are of particular interest.

Further information

Kingfisher are looking for a level of innovation that is accessible to the average household, while demonstrating improvements over existing solutions such as wormeries.

Selection criteria

- Simple installation and ease of use.
- The solution must be effective in terms of smell and pest prevention.
- The solution must comply with Kingfisher's sustainable home product guidelines.
- The cost of the solution will make it accessible to the average household.
- A product that could be sold across all markets would be optimal. Kingfisher's primary markets are the UK, France and Poland.
- Ideally the solution will be market-ready. However, less developed innovations are still of interest if the innovator would be happy to collaborate with Kingfisher's existing third-party manufacturers/supply chain.