2.4 Water Conservation

SAS' 900-acre headquarters in Cary, NC, and 13 global sites use water for office and data center cooling, cafés, gymnasiums, landscaping and employee consumption. Water conservation is of paramount importance to SAS, with many facilities operating in communities where water shortfalls and water use restrictions are standard. At SAS headquarters, coupling water-saving technologies and practice with increased employee awareness has resulted in significant savings. For example:

- Low-flow and electronically activated plumbing fixtures greatly reduce employee water consumption, saving 63 percent more compared to standard fixtures.
- Rooftop rainwater collection systems capture water for use in bathrooms.
- Cooling towers are replaced with high-efficiency models that use reclaimed water.
- Wastewater options, such as reclaimed and gray water, lower potable water consumption.
- Reducing and customizing irrigation schedules avoids overwatering plants.
- Collecting rainwater in retention ponds and cisterns minimizes stormwater runoff and provides water for landscape irrigation.
- Native and drought-resistant plants and warm-season grasses require less frequent irrigation.
- Timely repair of leaking pipes and the installation of low-flow toilets, shower heads and faucet aerators save at least 1.4 million gallons each year.

2017 Data

SAS water use increased by 3.5 percent in 2017. The 9,758 cubic meter increase was primarily due to expanding the use of reclaimed water in building cooling systems. While the use of reclaimed water requires less energy by utilities to treat it to potable quality, the use of reclaimed water in cooling systems requires additional volumes to maintain operational efficiencies. Additional water increases were due to higher than normal global temperatures.

- Overall building efficiency improvements contributed to a lower employee water use intensity rate of 16.3 gallons per square foot – a 1 percent improvement from 2016.
- Returned 46 percent (116,952 cubic meters) of municipal water for treatment by local utilities.
- Completed pilot project to test the use of sphagnum moss as a water treatment option in building cooling towers. The data indicated this solution improved overall water quality, increased equipment efficiency, removed corrosive organic material, reduced potable water consumption, and minimized the need for chemical treatments.

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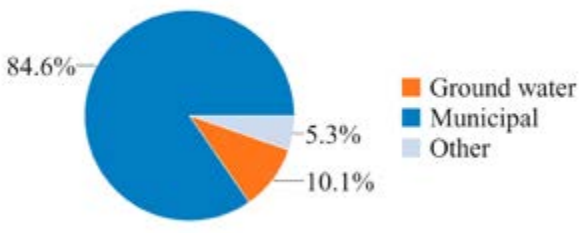
Water Trend (Cubic Meters)

Region	2017	2016	2015
AP	18,838	16,937	17,930
CAN	5,599	5,170	5,154
EMEA	56,953	52,784	52,962
LA	2,812	2,488	2,479
US	202,569	199,633	219,761
Total	286,770	277,013	298,286

Water Variance (Cubic Meters)

Region	2017	2016	Variance	Variance %
AP	18,838	16,937	1,901	11.2%
CAN	5,599	5,170	428	8.3%
EMEA	56,953	52,784	4,169	7.9%
LA	2,812	2,488	324	13.0%
US	202,569	199,633	2,936	1.5%
Total	286,770	277,013	9,758	3.5%

Water Percentage by Source



All reports are based on actual resource data collected from owned and leased offices, and intensity metrics applied to approximately 21 percent of leased office space that does not have access to actual data.