School Water Efficiency Audit

Instructions & Activities

Schools use a lot of water, and much of it is wasted without anyone noticing. Students like you can help find out whether your school is water-efficient and where fixes and savings can be made by doing this Water Efficiency Audit for your school.

Just follow the steps below, have fun with your teachers doing some of the activities and add the information you collect to the attached Audit Form.

STEP 1

How Much Water Do We Use?

- Find out where your local water supply comes from by asking teachers, or using the internet or library resources.
- Work out how much water your school is using each week by making a daily water meter reading for one week.
- Your teacher can find out the readings for the weekend and can confirm what the water was used for when school was closed.
- Add your findings to Section 1 of the Audit Form.

STEP 2

Where Do We Use Water?

- Take a walk around your school to find all the places where water is used. Some are more obvious than others, so make sure you explore your school and its grounds for water users and potential water wasters! Some places you explore might include: bathrooms, classrooms, playgrounds, gyms, halls, gardens, water fountains.
- Add your big list of places to the table in Section 2 of the Audit Form.
- Note in the table any places where you found a leak. You and your teacher can check taps and toilets for leaks.

ACTIVITY

Reading the Water Meter with your Teacher

1. This activity depends on being able to safely access the water meter.
2. Ask an adult to lift the meter cover and check the area is safe before you read it.
3. Take a water meter reading at the same time each day for 5 days.

ACTIVITY

How much is that tap leaking?

1. Place a measuring cup (that measures millilitres) under the leaky tap and start a stopwatch.
2. Leave the cup under the leaky tap for 15 minutes.
3. Note down how many millilitres were captured, then your teacher can help you to calculate how many litres per hour the tap is leaking.
4. Together you can work out how much water would be wasted in 1 day, in 1 week and in 1 year.

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- With your teacher's help you might also be able to measure the amount of water your toilets use to flush and the amount of water your taps deliver in a minute (or their flow rate).
- A general guide for flow rates is as follows:
  - Sink taps flow should not exceed 12 litres per minute
  - Hand basin taps flow should not exceed 6 litres per minute
  - Shower flows, if you have them, should not exceed 9 litres per minute
- Finish Step 2 by adding all this information to your table in the Audit Form. Then answer the questions beneath it. This will help you to see the total number of water users there are and how many leaks or taps need to be fixed.

STEP 3

Are We Water Wise?

- Answer the questions listed in Section 3 of the Audit Form to see if your school is doing all it can to be water wise.

STEP 4

Can We Save Some Water Today?

- Write a list of all the places you found where water was wasted in Section 4 of the Audit Form.
- Then, write down how you think you can encourage other students to save water at your school.

ACTIVITY

Is the toilet leaking?

1. Remove the cistern cover and pour in enough food colouring to change the colour of the water in the cistern.
2. Wait for a few minutes to see if the water in the bowl changes colour.

ACTIVITY

How much water is flushed down the toilet?

1. Remove the cistern cover and shut off the water supply to the toilet. Identify where the cistern fill point is.
2. Flush the toilet to empty the cistern.
3. Refill the cistern to the fill point with a measuring jug and calculate how much water is used with each flush.

ACTIVITY

Are our tap flow rates fast or slow?

1. Place a 10-litre bucket under the tap you are checking, turn it on halfway and start a stopwatch.
2. Leave the bucket under the tap for 30 seconds only.
3. Note down how many litres were captured in 30 seconds and double it to get litres per minute (the flow rate).

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School Water Efficiency Audit Form

SECTION 1 How Much Water Do We Use?

1. Fill out the table
2. What was the water used for at the weekend?

Day	Water Meter Reading	Litres of Water Used
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		
TOTAL WATER USED THIS WEEK		

SECTION 2 Where Do We Use Water?

1. Fill out the table

Place where water is used	Is there a leak?	What is the tap flow rate?	How much did the toilet flush?
e.g. Classroom 1 - toilet	Yes	-	18 litres
e.g. Kitchen - taps	No	10 litres	-

2. Fill in the gaps below

- There are ____ toilets
- There are ____ dual flush toilets
- There are ____ single flush toilets
- There are ____ hand basin taps
- There are ____ urinals
- There are ____ outside taps
- There are ____ water fountains
- There are ____ taps flowing too fast
- There are ____ taps flowing just right
- There are ____ taps flowing too slowly
- We counted ____ leaking taps
- We counted ____ leaking toilets

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SECTION 3 Are We Water Wise?

1. Are there many leaks?

2. Are any taps left running when not in use?

3. How many toilets are dual flush toilets?

4. Do all the students know the difference between half flush and full flush, and which to use when?

5. Do all the students know who to tell if they see leaking toilets or taps?

6. Do all the students turn off taps if they see them left running?

7. Does your school have a water butt?

8. How does your school water its grounds?

9. How often are your school gardens and grounds watered?

10. What time of day are the school gardens and grounds watered?

11. What sort of plants does your school grow?

12. Are there any posters/signs to remind students to use water wisely? If not, download them from waterwise.org.uk/how-to-save-water

SECTION 4 Can We Save Some Water Today?

1. Write down here all the places where water is wasted at your school and tell us how you could save it.

2. How can you encourage other students to save water at school?

Well done! You have done a great job. Your Water Efficiency Audit is now complete. Now you can save some water and ensure your school takes care of its water use until you do another audit next year!

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