Equipment

1. A clip board for group leaders.
2. Pens and pencils.
3. Buckets and/or one litre jugs.
4. Stop watches.
5. Disposable gloves.

After the Water Audit

1. Using ideas from your water audit and from **Activity Sheet 03** and **04** determine what water saving measures you could make at your school. You may need to get advice from an expert.
2. Develop a school water saving action plan (**Activity Sheet 05**).
3. Inform the school community of the outcome of the water audit.
4. Establish a school protocol for reporting leaking taps and pipes.
5. Run a water conservation awareness campaign.

Is your school eligible for a 'Water Wise School' Certificate from Dublin City Council?

There are three steps to becoming a Water Wise School:

1. Complete a water conservation education program such as **Water is Precious. Lets Conserve it at School**.
2. Complete a water audit.
3. Complete a school water saving action plan.

If you have completed each step, please send a copy of your school's water action plan along with a brief overview of the work you have carried out to **sinead.hourihane@dublincity.ie** or post to **Sinéad Hourihane, Water Conservation Officer, Dublin City Council, Environment & Engineering Department, Water Services Division, 68-70 Marrowbone Lane, Dublin 8.**

And receive a

Water Wise School Certificate

Dublin City
Baile Átha Cliath

School Water Audit

How to do a Water Audit at Your School.

You may be surprised to find out how much water your school is actually using. You may also be surprised to find out how easy it is to significantly reduce the amount of water you are using at school. You can find out by carrying out a simple water audit.

You will need the **Activity Sheet 01-05** from **Water is Precious. Lets Conserve it at School**. Here are some ideas to assist you with the water audit:

Before the Water Audit

1. Undertake a water conservation education programme such as **Water is Precious. Lets Conserve it at School**.
2. If possible look at the school's water bills, if not take the meter reading for as long as possible before the audit. Ideally the meter reading should be taken first thing in the morning and last thing in the evening. Identify changes in use over time. Are you using water when there is nobody in the building, *e.g. at weekends/night-time*?
4. If you do not have a water meter estimate your usage by completing **Activity Sheet 01**. This will also familiarise students with measuring flows and give them a good understanding of volumes.
5. Obtain a map of the school (if you do not have a map draw a rough sketch). Identify the location of all water outlets such as toilets, showers, sinks, indoor and outdoor taps. These areas will be reviewed during the audit.
6. Divide the students into teams. Depending on the size of the school these teams can survey one or more audit areas. Arrange for an adult to assist a group of students to undertake the water audit, if practicable. This will require a time commitment of approximately 1.5 hours.
7. Determine the Health and Safety rules, *e.g. do not touch hot water taps, keep clothes dry, wash hands after visiting toilet areas etc.*

The Following Questions Should be Answered During the Audit:

- Are there any water saving devices on the taps, *e.g. push taps, infra red sensors (motion sensors), spray devices*?
- Flows from taps can be measured using a measuring jug as follows:

  Amount of water flowing from the tap in 5 seconds **Litres**

  From this you can determine the following:

  Amount flowing from the tap in one minute (60 sec) **Litres**
- Are there any water saving devices on the toilets, *e.g. water displacement devices in larger cisterns, dual flush toilets etc.*?
- The volume of water in a cistern is usually marked on the inside of the cisterns. If not a general rule of thumb can be used – older toilets (prior 1999) are likely to have a 9 litre cistern, newer toilets (post 1999) are likely to have a 6 litre cistern.
- Are there any water saving devices on the urinals, *e.g. infra red sensors, timers etc.*?
- Determine how the urinals flush. Some urinals flush automatically whenever the cistern fills (usually every 15-20 minutes) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year.
- Are there any water saving devices on the showers, *e.g. infra red sensors, push taps etc.*?
- Are there any leaking taps/pipes/cisterns?
- Check water using appliances. Generally older appliances use more water than newer ones, *e.g. dishwasher, washing machine.*
- Review procedures that use water, *e.g. watering the garden, cleaning etc.*

On the Day of the Water Audit

1. Remind staff and students that the water audit will be taking place and that you will require access to the school for approximately 30 minutes.
2. Organise the class into water audit groups and appoint a team leader, recorder and reporter.
3. Assign areas for each team to audit.
4. Brief Team Leaders on the water audit process.
5. Provide students with work sheets (**Activity Sheet 02**), pencils and a map of the school grounds and buildings.
6. Go through the Health and Safety rules.
7. Fill out **Activity Sheet 02** and identify areas of water wastage.
8. When the audit is complete reassemble the teams. The Team Leader for each group reports on their own teams findings.