



# Water

## Sustainability Audit

This guide will help you actively observe your surroundings by zooming in on Water in your school grounds. Go out, explore, investigate, reflect and start planning your Eco-School actions!



# EXPLORE WATER WITH ECO-SCHOOLS

Water is one of our planet's most precious resources, essential for life, health, and the environment. However, challenges such as pollution, waste, overuse, and unequal distribution threaten its availability and quality. Access to clean, safe water is crucial for drinking, hygiene, and preventing illness, keeping communities healthy. Addressing both the quality and quantity of water is key, ensuring that it is used efficiently and distributed equitably. Through this theme you will learn about water conservation, promoting water-efficient habits, and exploring solutions like rainwater harvesting, protecting local water sources, and maintaining healthy ecosystems.



Your Eco-Committee can choose to focus on the theme Water, or explore several themes at once. Forming sub-groups within the committee ensures continuity, with each group taking responsibility for a specific theme and developing expertise over time. Use the Eco-Schools Seven Steps to explore and weave the theme throughout every part of your school.

## SOME QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED...

### Local Practices

- What practices in our school support responsible water use, hygiene, and conservation?
- What are we doing well to manage water sustainably and what can we do to improve?

### Water Sources and Usage

- Where does our school's water come from, and how is its use being managed?
- How effectively are we tracking and controlling our water consumption?
- What actions are we taking to conserve water and prevent wastage?
- How effective are these water-saving initiatives in our school?

### Pollution Prevention

- What measures do we have in place to prevent contamination or spills from our school into local water ways?



Challenge assumptions, slow down, and really observe your surroundings. Your school has its own unique challenges and solutions that only sharp, curious minds will discover. Record what you see - notes, sketches, photos, or simple counts - at different times and seasons.

Ask critical questions: *What's here? What's missing? Why is it like this? What could change?* Use these insights to understand the current situation and move towards high-impact Water actions at your school.



## Water Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit

Availability	Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
	Does your school have access to safe drinking water?		
	Does your school have sanitation facilities for girls and boys?		
	Are reusable water bottles common among students?		
	<b>Behaviour</b>		
	Where do you see water being used in your school? <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen <input type="checkbox"/> toilets <input type="checkbox"/> gardens <input type="checkbox"/> science labs <input type="checkbox"/> classrooms <input type="checkbox"/> cleaning <input type="checkbox"/> sports <input type="checkbox"/> other		
	Which areas seem to use the most water?		
	Can you notice taps dripping, toilets running, or pipes leaking? How much is being wasted? Leave a bucket underneath and time how long it takes to fill up.		
	How long do taps usually run when someone washes their hands or equipment?		
	Do students or teachers ever leave taps running unnecessarily?		
	Are there any signs or reminders about saving water near classroom sinks or bathroom handbasins?		
	Where does the water go after it's used in your classroom? Try to trace it.		
	Please enter the amount of water used by the school this year.		



## Water Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit

Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
What is the average water consumption per person in your school this year?		
<b>Taps &amp; Handwashing</b>		
What percentage of students regularly practice handwashing?		
When you want to wash your hands, is there soap available?		
What different types of taps can you find in your school (e.g., twist, lever, push, or sensor)?		
Can you find handwashing stations near toilets, dining halls, or classrooms?		
<b>Cleaning &amp; Toilets</b>		
What system do your school toilets follow, dual-flush or low-flow systems?		
Are the toilets and sinks clean, accessible, and working properly?		
What kinds of cleaning products are used? Are they eco-friendly?		
How often are floors or surfaces washed down with water?		
Is water being collected and reused in any way, like using rinse water for plants or cleaning? If so, how?		

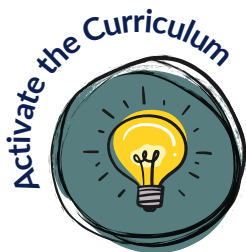


## Water Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit

Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
<b>Gardens</b>		
Does your school garden have enough or too much water?		
How are plants watered? Are watering cans, hoses, sprinklers, or irrigation systems being used?		
When are the gardens usually watered , in the morning, midday, or afternoon? How is responsible for it?		
<b>Rain</b>		
How does water move after a rainfall, does it soak in, puddle, or flow away?		
Is rainwater harvested at your school? How is it used?		
<b>Your questions</b>		

# Choosing *Water* as a key theme for action?

## Follow these next Eco-Schools steps...



What knowledge or skills do you still need to start putting your ideas into action? Take some time to identify what's missing and discuss it within your Eco-Committee. Then, reach out to your teachers and tell them what you'd like to learn more about, whether it's water scarcity, how to detect and fix leaks, or understanding how to keep water safe. Together, you can build the knowledge and confidence needed to start real change!

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Work together to turn your ideas into real change by creating an Action Plan for Water. Mobilise your Eco-Committee, teachers, school staff, parents, and the wider community to help you reach your goals. You could:



Introduce a water harvesting system



Set up water saving devices



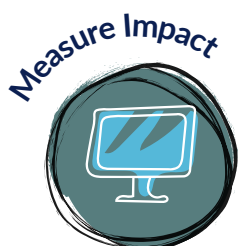
Optimise school irrigation systems



Switch to eco-friendly cleaning products

Whatever actions you choose, make sure they are realistic, measurable, and long-lasting, so your Eco-Committee's work continues to grow year after year.

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Monitor your actions to see the difference you have made!

Have you fixed water leaks? Are more people aware of the importance of proper hygiene? You could compare before-and-after water use records, or note how many people joined your activities. Measuring your impact helps you celebrate success and plan even better actions for the future!

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Make sure the whole school and local community are part of your Water journey. Share your findings and actions through assemblies, newsletters, posters, or social media. Invite teachers, students, parents, and local experts to join activities or share their knowledge. By including different perspectives and experiences, your Eco-Committee will build stronger, more creative solutions that last.