

## Saving Water Saving Energy



### Introduction

We need clean water to drink, to grow food and to stay healthy. We need clean water at home for drinking, cleaning, cooking, showers, baths and washing clothes. Water in streams, rivers and bogs is important for wildlife too but around the world as the climate changes we are hearing more about droughts and flooding. This is affecting the amount of clean water we have.

#### Did you know?

- It takes energy to run the treatment plants and the pumping stations that clean and carry the water that comes out of our taps.
- It takes energy to heat the hot water we use every day in our homes, schools, businesses and hospitals.
- The average person in the developing world uses 10 litres of water a day. The average person in the Dublin uses 150 litres of water per day. Can you suggest all the ways that we use water each day?
- 99% of the World's water cannot be used because it is salt water or is frozen in glaciers or ice sheets.

#### What can we do?

There are two main things we can do to save water and save energy at home, in school and at work.

- Reducing the amount of water we use; to reduce the amount of energy used to treat and pump water to where we use it.
- Use less hot water to reduce the amount of energy we use to heat it.

#### Top tips for reducing your water use at home and in school

- Don't leave the tap running when you are brushing your teeth. Turning off the tap can save over 7,000 litres of water per year!
- Use a bucket and sponge instead of a hose, if washing the car. It uses a lot less water.
- Fix leaking taps and make sure the tap is fully turned off after you use it.
- A third of all the water used in the house is flushed down the toilet. Save water by putting a bottle filled with water or a displacement device to reduce the amount of water in the cistern.
- Choose percussion (press) taps if replacing older taps in school, they use less water and switch off automatically.
- Take a shower rather than a bath. A typical shower uses only one fifth of the energy of a full bath.



- Only run appliances that use water (like washing machines and dishwashers) when they are full. A washing machine on full cycle can use up to 65 litres of water and dishwashers can use 20 litres. Choose 'A' rated appliances to reduce energy and water use.
- Use the timers on your immersion or boiler so you can control when the heating comes on and goes off - this means you have heating and hot water when and where you want it without wasting energy.
- Don't fill the kettle for a single cup of tea. You will save water and energy too.
- Schools pay for water so read your water meter, monitor your use and run an awareness campaign to reduce water use and save energy. For lots more tips read the water conservation factsheet at [http://www.energyineducation.ie/Energy\\_In\\_Education/Information\\_For\\_Schools/Resources\\_and\\_links/Water\\_Conservation\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.energyineducation.ie/Energy_In_Education/Information_For_Schools/Resources_and_links/Water_Conservation_Factsheet.pdf)
- Use a water butt to collect rainwater from your gutters for use in the garden (make sure to securely cover large containers for safety). These are available from some Local Authorities and garden centres. Water plants in the early morning or evening when it's cooler. Forget the hose and always use a watering can fitted with a rose.
- Use a basin in your sink to collect and reuse water for your garden plants.

## **Resources for Teachers and Students**

### **Websites**

- An Taisce Green-schools have lots of ideas on [saving water](#)
- Visit <https://www.water.ie/community/conservation/> for some more ideas
- Visit [Irish Water's website](#) for information on the water treatment cycle

### **Videos**

- [Save Water to Help the Earth](#)
- [One Direction - Dear World Leaders](#)

## **Resources for Teachers only**

### **Classroom activity**

- Brainstorm a list of different jobs, chef, nurse, firefighter, farmer, cleaner, gardener, office worker. Ask pupils to pick one or two examples and work in groups and write a list all the ways these people use water every day.

