

## Water conservation

### Method

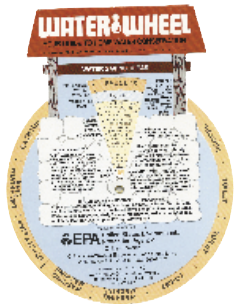
Do an audit of your school or home. Can you see any of the following?

- Leaks and drips.
- Toilets and urinals that do not have a water-saving device installed.
- Garden hoses that are left on during the day.
- Taps that are left on while teeth are brushed or dishes etc are washed.

Choose one issue and brainstorm some ways to prevent it. Here are some examples of action projects which help to reduce water wastage:

### Some ideas for Action Projects

Design leaflets about being water-wise. You could use a 'wheel' leaflet where the information is revealed as you spin the wheel. It's an easy and effective way to get information across. You could use some of the Take Action funding to reproduce enough leaflets to do a drop to your local community.



Retrofit the school's toilet with a cheap and low-tech solution: a 2 litre plastic bottle filled with water placed in the toilet cistern. This displaces water and saves 2 litres per flush – which can be a huge saving where toilets are used frequently, such as in schools.

Install a non-continuous flush urinal - they cost about \$600 but the cost is recovered usually within the first year due to the savings in the school's water bill.

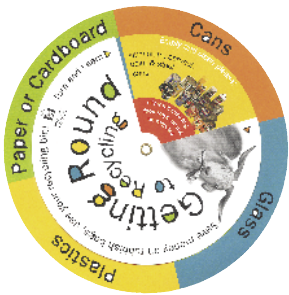
As a technology project, your class could invent a system or technology to collect roof water so that it can be reused to water the garden. A bucket catching the down-pipe overflow might work.

Or you could invent a home-made sprinkler to water specific parts of the garden rather than wasting water where it is not needed. Installing a strong hosepipe with holes pierced in strategic places works well.

Design stickers or fridge magnets to remind people to be waterwise and place these in places where people are likely to see them frequently. This is an example of a leaflet that Hutt City Council has produced as a fridge magnet to remind people about recycling. The leaflet can be moved to reveal more information and has little magnets on the back.



# Take Action



Use a bucket instead of a hose to clean cars, floors, paintbrushes and other things. A hose uses 15 litres of water per minute. If you take one hour to wash a car and leave the hose on you would use 900 litres of water, much of which would have been wasted. Students could organise a car-washing event where they raise money for installing water saving devices.

Use refillable water bottles instead of the water fountain. Students could design their own water-wise logo for their water bottles, or to encourage others in the school to use refillable water bottles.



Organise a water-wise week at school. You could read the water meter to find out how much water your school uses each week, then attempt to reduce that amount by a quarter (on average, schools can reduce their water consumption by at least a third).

Get the whole school involved by running an event each day to show ways to reduce water wastage. You could develop a school water-wise rap. Run a class or syndicate competition to see who can use the least water throughout the week. Alternatively, fill up 2 buckets of water and then turn the taps off for a day – which class can make the water last longest? You might need a water monitor to check water savings.

Plant natives instead of exotics. (Native plants use less water than exotics). Ask the caretaker to water the plants in the cool of the day (early morning or better still, late afternoon).

You could set up your own water-wise gardening club. Some schools have very successful gardening clubs and mulch all their plants to save water. Check out the water conservation leaflet for more ideas.

