



HOW TO DO A WATER AUDIT WITH A WATER METER

The purpose of the water audit/review is:

- To find out how much water is used in the school per person per day.
- To identify areas where water is being wasted in the school.
- To gauge levels of awareness in the school.

To work out water usage per person per day from your water bill:

- Find your total usage in litres for the billing period.(a)
- Find out the total number of days in which the school was open for the billing period.(b)
- Divide (a) (total usage in litres for the billing period) by (b) (total number of days in which the school was open for the billing period), this will give you the average usage for one day in school in litres (c)
- Divide (c) (average usage for one day in school in litres) by the average number of people (students, teachers, staff) present on a given day, this will give the average usage per person in litres. The Department of Education advises that about 19.1 litres per person per day is reasonable and 11.5 litres per person per day is best practice.

If the school has a water meter but does not receive a bill which shows the volume used:

- Identify where the water meter is.
- Take a reading on a morning before anybody enters the school.
- Take a reading after the last person has left the school in the evening.
- Subtract the first reading from the second.
- Divide your usage (in litres) for the day by the total attendance for the day (students, teachers and other staff).

To gauge awareness levels in the school:

Devise a survey or questionnaire for students and staff or maybe one to send home to families. Ask questions that gauge awareness e.g. ‘do you leave the tap running while you brush your teeth?’ or ‘do you think a bath or shower uses more water?’ etc.

Follow up the survey/questionnaire with an information leaflet to inform and involve.

Visit www.taptips.ie for some ideas.