





# Green-Schools: How to use the Water Meter Tracking Sheet



1. Write in your school name.
2. Take the first reading of your water meter and on the sheet:
  - a. Enter the date of the reading
  - b. Enter the numbers on the meter under “*Today’s Reading*”
3. On the next date you read your meter:
  - a. Enter in the date of the reading
  - b. Enter the numbers on the meter under “*Today’s Reading*”
  - c. Subtract today’s reading from the previous date’s reading
  - d. Enter that figure under “*Units (litres) used since previous reading*”
  - e. Count the number of school days since the last reading and write this number under “*Number of school days since last reading*”
  - f. Enter the number of people in the school (staff and students)
4. Do the sums!
  - a. Divide the number of litres by the number of school days
  - b. Divide that number by the number of people in the school
5. Continue to monitor your water usage and see if you can reduce it through your Green-Schools actions!

*See tracking sheet example on the next page*



# Green-Schools Water Meter Tracking Sheet



School: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Today's Reading									Units (litres) used since previous reading	Number of school days since last reading	Number of people in school	Number of litres used per person
7/11/2016	1	2	3	4	5	0	2	4	~	~	~	~	
14/11/2016	1	2	3	6	0	6	5	5	15,631	5	216	14.5	
21/11/2016	1	2	3	7	7	6	8	7	17,032	5	216	15.8	
28/11/2016	1	2	3	9	4	1	8	1	16,494	5	216	15.3	
5/12/2016	1	2	4	1	0	2	4	3	16,062	5	216	14.9	
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	
5/2/2018	1	5	3	0	8	2	4	3	11,432	5	260	8.8	
12/2/2018	1	5	3	1	9	5	8	8	11,345	5	260	8.7	
19/2/2018	1	5	3	3	0	9	9	0	11,402	5	260	8.8	



# Green-Schools: Evaluating your Water Meter Tracking Sheet



The Department of Education advises<sup>1</sup> that a usage of 3.5 m<sup>3</sup> (3,500 litres) per person per year is reasonable, while 2.1 m<sup>3</sup> (2,100 litres) per person per year is best practice.

Based on these figures, the usage per person per day is:

Water Usage/ School Type	Reasonable	Best Practice	Possible with Green-Schools actions
Primary School (183 school days)	19.1	11.5	4 – 8
Secondary School (167 school days)	21	12.6	6 – 10

Before working on the Water theme, many schools are achieving the “Best Practice” figure; some even are using less.

No matter what your initial baseline usage is, you should always try to make a reduction!

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0053\\_2010.pdf](https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0053_2010.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Based on figures provided by schools who have completed the Green-Schools Water theme



# Green-Schools: Evaluating your Water Meter Tracking Sheet



What if my water usage figures are very high? There are a number of reasons why this could be:

- You have a leak – run our leak checks to see. These are available to download on our website: <https://greenschoolsireland.org/resources/testing-for-leaks/>
- Is your school is used in the evenings and at the weekends? Maybe there are evening classes that are using water – especially art classes! Check the school-day water usage by reading the water meter at the start of the day (e.g. 9:00am) and another at the end of the same day (e.g. 3:00pm). Calculate the litres-per-person and compare with the readings; the amount should be less.
- Speak to your cleaner about how much water they use – this counts as your water usage as they are cleaning up after you!
- Does your school use urinals that are on a constant flush – even throughout the night?
- Are you a boarding school? Boarding schools will use lots more water as students are washing and cooking there.
- Can you identify something in your school that may be using water excessively? The Green-Schools Water theme is the perfect place to start to help you fix this!