

Green-Schools Water

**Uisce
Éireann**
Irish Water



WATER ACTIONS

**Strategies for Sparking Impactful Ideas
That Engage the Entire School Community**

Introduction

Coordinators often ask, “What should we do next?”

You might be just starting out or already working with your Green-Schools Committee. Wherever you are, the 7 Steps give a clear structure to guide your work. Start by reviewing the 7 Steps to make sure you are covering all parts of the programme. Most steps are led by the Green-Schools Committee, but the programme really comes to life when more people get involved.

Step 6: Informing and Involving is the most important (and often the most rewarding) step. It’s about getting students, teachers, school staff, and sometimes the wider community, engaged with the Water theme. We recommend involving people as early as possible ([**section 1**](#)), planning actions around your local assets ([**section 2**](#)). Still needing inspiration? Jump to [**section 3**](#)!

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Getting More People Involved



Key idea: When planning actions, design them with the people you want to reach in mind.

Green-Schools Committees often include students who already care about the environment and that's great. But real impact happens when **more people are brought along**.

To do this, think about what others are already interested in: sports, music, technology, competition, creativity... Design activities that connect to those interests first, and environmental action second.

For example, a **shower challenge** worked well because it was run as a fun competition, with rewards and school spirit. Posters, playlists, announcements, and friendly rivalry helped keep energy high. Saving water didn't feel like a punishment—it felt fun and achievable.



Tools to Help: (especially for secondary schools)

- **Persona worksheet:** helps students understand their peers better
- **A–Z brainstorming sheet:** useful for generating ideas after students have reflected on others' needs and interests
- **Idea Development Activity:** produces a fully developed action idea by having students build-on and adapt ideas from their peers

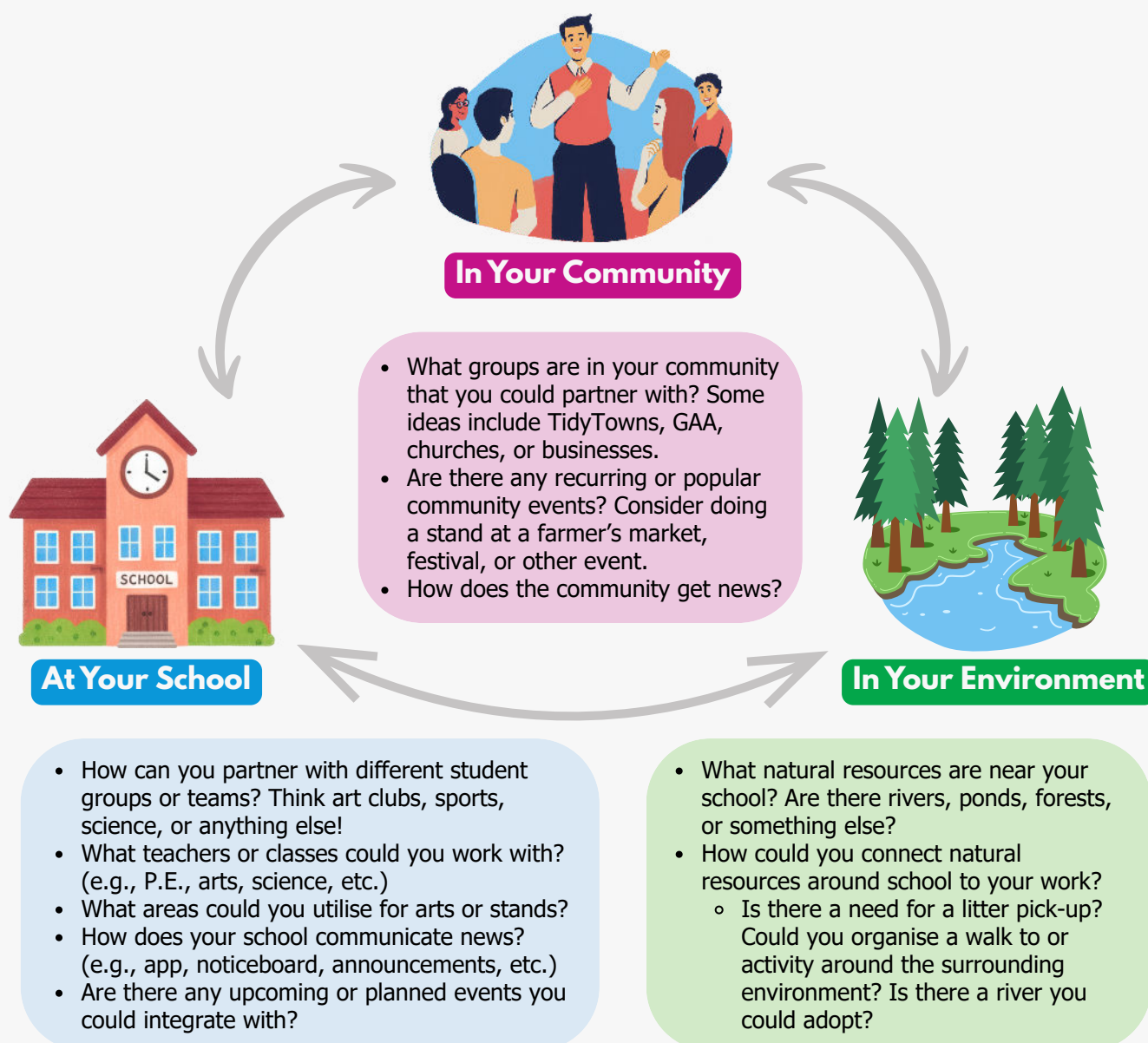
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Action Planning Around Local Assets



Key idea: Local assets are important because using what is already around you helps you plan actions that make sense for your school and are more likely to work.

This section shares a **simple method** to help you plan actions that suit your school. Think about the **human and natural assets** you already have: people, spaces and resources you can build on.



3

Action Idea Inspiration



Key idea: This section offers a range of practical action ideas to spark your inspiration and help you turn what you've learned into meaningful, real-world action.

Check out some action ideas in the following categories:

Arts, Creative & Media Activities

Science, Experiments & Investigations

Outdoor, Nature & Place-Based Activities

Whole-School Events & Competitions

Communications & Outreach Activities

Action Ideas:

Arts, Creative & Media Activities



Performing Arts

- **Song/rap:** Create a song or rap and teach it to the school
- **Musical/play:** Create/Identify a play, musical or drama piece with a water theme.

Film & Video Projects

- **Videos:** Create short awareness videos (e.g. water conservation, fast fashion, marine protection). Show in class or on social media
- **Stop-motion animations:** Use paper, clay, or photos to create a stop-motion animation
- **Documentary showing:** Show a film in class, have an assembly for the whole school, or even invite parents and community members to attend! [Check out our recommended documentaries here.](#)

Visual Arts

- **Poster exhibition:** Design posters promoting water conservation and display them around the school (can link with Art, Science or Geography classes).
- **Mural:** Design and paint a mural with a water theme
- **Photobooth:** Set up a themed photo booth for events or awareness weeks. Use sustainable materials!

Other Creative Activities

- **Water mascot:** Imagine a character to embody water saving efforts at your school. Give them a name, personality, and emotions. Draw your mascot, create it with sustainable materials, or even dress them. Show and tell!
- **Literature:** Read/write stories or poems with a water theme in nature.
- **Podcast:** Record podcast episodes that highlight different water topics. Invite guests like students, teachers, or community members to join episodes.

Action Ideas:

Science, Experiments & Investigations



Experiments

Check out our
experiment
resources here.

- **Hidden Pollution experiment:** Use taste and smell to learn about invisible pollution.
- **Toilet Paper vs. Wipes experiment:** Do wipes break down like toilet paper when you flush them? Find out!
- **Balloon experiment:** Learn about the role of oceans in regulating climate change.
- Tornado in a Bottle experiment:
- **Make it Rain experiment:** Make your own rain and learn how precipitation happens.
- **Water Pollution experiment:** See how pollution can get into our food through water.
- **Sink the Boat experiment:** Discover why some objects float while others sink.

Water Investigations

- **Water Quality test:** Test the quality of a nearby pond, river, or lake. Check out our resources on water quality testing here.
- **Virtual tour:** Watch a virtual tour of a water treatment plant, reservoir project, or water resource recovery facility.
- **Research:** Conduct research on different water topics and put together a presentation or display. Check out research resources here.
- **DIY water filter:** Create your own filter and clean muddy water. See the resource here.



Action Ideas:

Outdoor, Nature & Place-Based Activities

Nature Learning

- **Workshops:** Take part in workshops, such as the [IPCC's Bogs: Discover and Learn, Galway](#), [Atlantaquaria's aquarium learning](#), or a visit to one of the [National Parks & Wildlife Service Education Centres](#).
- **Local exploration:** Take a trip to a local river or streams. Observe and record plants and animals. Make it a competition—see who can record the most different types of wildlife!
- **River ecosystem assessment:** Check the health of a nearby river. [Visit the GLOBE River Ecosystem Campaign](#) to learn how.

Adopt a River or Lake

- **Learn where your water comes from:** Check out [Uisce Éireann's "In your area" webpage](#) to find out where your school's water comes from.
- **Publicise:** Take pride in the river or lake you adopt! Let everyone at your school know with announcements or posters.
- **Events:** Organise walks, clean-ups, outdoor art activities, or nature observations at the site.
- **Pollution investigation:** Discover pollution levels with the [My Local Environment tool](#).



Action Ideas: Whole-School Events & Competitions



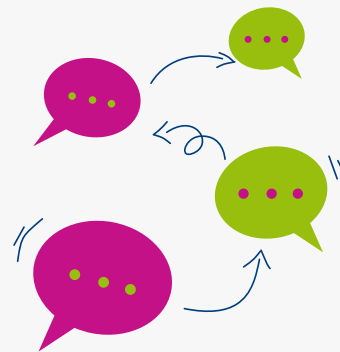
Events

- **Themed days:** Organise a themed day with dress-up, activities, or something else (e.g. Water-themed fancy dress or "Blue Day").
- **Themed weeks:** Plan a week of themed activities (e.g., Environment Week, Marine Week, Water Week).
- **Sustainable fashion catwalk:** Challenge students to make outfits out of sustainable materials and show off their work during a catwalk. Add fun music and a judging panel!
- **Swap shops:** Organise a swap shop for students to swap clothes they don't wear. Have a generic swap shop or pick a theme (e.g., uniforms, school dances, Christmas). [Learn how to host your own swap shop here.](#)
- **Physical activities:** Get moving! Plan a [Walk for Water](#) or water relay race.
- **Action Day:** Organise games, stalls, experiments, bake sales, litter pick-ups, or other activities. Bonus points for involving nature and community members!
- **Awareness activities:** Host activities like experiments, talks, or art projects during breaks, during class, or after school.

Competitions

- **Poster and video competitions:** Participate in a Green-Schools competition (e.g., [Water Poster & Video Competition](#) or TLDR Global Goals Bookless Club) or organise your own.
- **5' Shower Challenge:** Have classes compete to see who can tally the most 5' showers in a week. [Check out our resources here.](#)
- **Photography competition and exhibition:** Challenge students to take water-themed photos and show off all of the submission in a competition.
- **Story writing or creative writing challenges:** Invent a prompt and have students submit writing pieces.

Action Ideas: Communications & Outreach Activities



Social Media

- **Content creation:** Create social media content, such as videos. Feature the local environment and tag community groups.
- **Social media campaign:** Choose message for a social media campaign. Create content, choose a hashtag, post polls on your story, and ask students to post photos of their own.
- **Create your own social media page:** Create an account or page for your Green-Schools Committee. Share upcoming opportunities, photos, and fast facts.
- **Create a hashtag:** Brainstorm a hashtag to include in all of your posts.

Wider Community Involvement

- **Guest speakers:** Invite guest speakers (e.g., parents, grandparents, Tidy Towns, anglers, LAWPRO).
- **Newspaper feature:** Ask a local newspaper to feature your work or promote a message.
- **Posters:** Ask your local GAA club, businesses, or community centres to showcase posters!

Peer Education

- **Classroom visits:** Have Committee members share announcements or lead presentations.
- **Learning pop-up:** Host a pop-up at school breaks or community events. Include mini quizzes, games, posters, or experiments.

Awareness Campaigns

- **Think Before You Flush:** Create awareness about what can go down the toilet.
- **Think Before You Pour:** Teach others about what can and can't be poured down the sink.
- **Let's Go Plastic Free:** Promote a culture of sustainability by encouraging your school to say no to single-use.



Planning a campaign?

Try to use multiple ideas from this page!

[Check out this resource](#) to get started.

Appendix

Water-Themed Documentaries & Films

Host a documentary showing! Show a film in class, have an assembly for the whole school, or even invite parents and community members to attend! Check out the free documentaries below:

Title	Description
<u>The Story of Water</u>	This 40-minute documentary from Uisce Éireann focuses on the critical value of our most precious natural resource and explores the ongoing threats to its future—both globally and in Ireland.
<u>Wild Waters: The Magic of Ireland's Rivers and Lakes</u>	Richard Nairn is an ecologist who has been visiting waterways around Ireland for over half a century, fascinated by how they sustain and enrich our lives. In this talk, Richard describes his year-long adventure to explore every stretch and tributary of the Avonmore River, which runs through Co. Wicklow and his exploration of other rivers, lakes, wet woodlands, ponds and canals in Ireland.
<u>Flow: For Love of Water</u>	Documentary explores the importance of water as a vital resource and the global challenges surrounding its management. Through interviews with experts, investigative reporting, and compelling storytelling, provides an educational look at water issues around the world and encourages environmental stewardship.
<u>Could thirsty AI worsen the water crisis? People & Power Documentary</u>	Data centres consume massive amounts of water and electricity as they store and process the data generated by our online activity, from social media to shopping to cloud storage. This documentary looks at the building of data centres by Big Tech in places like drought-stricken Queretaro, in Mexico, talking with locals who are struggling to get by on rationed water as more of these facilities are built nearby.
<u>Explained: The World's Water Crisis:</u>	Short Netflix documentary that explores how the global water crisis is at an inflection point. How do we price our most valuable resource, while also ensuring access to it as a human right?