

WATER ACTION SHOWCASE

*Case Studies and Success Stories from
Schools Leading the Way in Water Stewardship*





PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St. Catherine's Special School

Their Approach

From fast fashion to marine life and water quality, St. Catherine's Special School brings water conservation to life through creative projects shaped by the interests of its students and their local environment.

What They Did

- **Anti-Fast Fashion Show:** Pupils chose a garment from the local charity shop, customised unique outfits at school, and showed off their creations during an exciting catwalk. Pupils learned sewing machine skills alongside lessons on the circular economy.
- **Adopting the River Altidore:** Pupils carried out water testing, created art, and engaged in nature-based activities at their local river.
- **Field Trips:** The school took trips to Marine Life Bray and the little tern colony in Kilcoole to learn more about marine life, inspiring curriculum work and art activities back at school.

Why does this matter?

By exploring fast fashion, students discover the significant water demands of clothing production and contribute to water and energy conservation by extending the life of garments through reuse and repair. A mix of outdoor exploration at local water bodies and in-class lessons can foster a strong sense of place, while also deepening understanding of environmental challenges and their solutions.



Citywest & Saggart Community NS

Their Approach

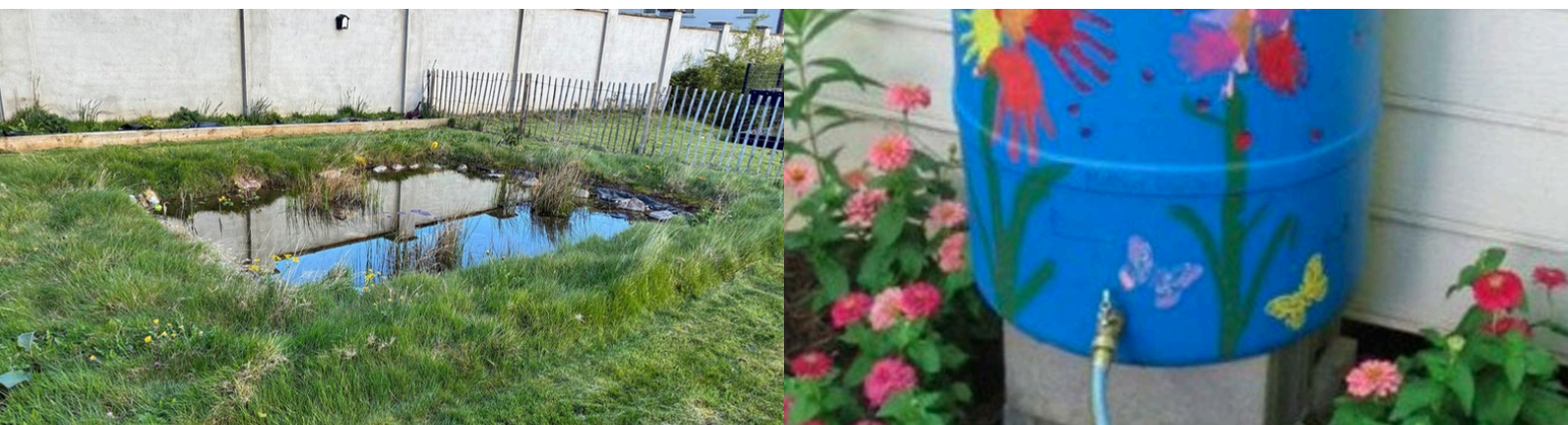
At Citywest & Saggart Community NS, a 27-member, pupil-led Green Schools committee drives a collaborative, whole-school approach to water conservation.

What They Did

- **Communications Campaigns:** Pupils led impactful campaigns such as “Turn off the Tap” and “What Goes Down the Toilet”, complete with posters, mini-quizzes, and water-related behaviour tallying.
- **School Pond Project:** Started a programme of regular maintenance and cleaning of the school pond, followed by ongoing monthly clean-up activities.
- **Water STEM Day:** All classes conducted practical investigations, while a week-long 5-Minute Shower Challenge tracked real water savings at home. Progress was monitored through water meter checks, pupil-led audits, surveys, and caretaker reports.

Why does this matter?

Encouraging people to turn off taps, take shorter showers, and avoid flushing inappropriate items directly reduces water waste, prevents blockage in sewage pipes and downstream water pollution. Maintaining the school pond creates a habitat and refuge for wildlife and supports biodiversity.



Glenroe Community NS

Their Approach

Glenroe Community NS embeds water conservation across school life through whole-school initiatives, student leadership, and community engagement.

What They Did

- **Student-Led Water Monitoring:** A student-led committee conducted a detailed water audit, introduced tap monitors, and regularly reviews progress. Roles such as Leak Squad and peer educators empower students to take leadership and accountability.
- **Community Engagement:** The school worked with An Taisce's GLOBE for a river ecosystem workshop, linked with local water authorities for a field trip to the water treatment plant, and even connected with the Limerick Outdoor Education Centre for a day of pond-dipping, kayaking, and water testing at Lough Gur.
- **Themed Events:** Themed events like a school "Walk for Water," poster competitions, and the "5 Minute Shower Showdown" reinforce awareness and make conservation a collective habit.

Why does this matter?

Water audits, leak detection, and behaviour-change campaigns help save significant amounts of drinking water that would otherwise be wasted. Learning about rivers, lakes, and water treatment helps students understand water's journey from source to tap and how our use of water impacts on its quality along the way. Linking with community groups helps the team leverage the knowledge and resources of local experts and groups.



Scoil Naomh Bríde (Blackwater NS)

Their Approach

Scoil Naomh Bríde (a.k.a Blackwater National School) promotes a whole-school culture of water conservation through diverse and engaging learning experiences that involve the entire community.

What They Did

- **Hands-On Learning:** Pupils took river visits with heritage experts, participated in biodiversity workshops, and made a dedicated water-themed digital resource available to all classes. The Committee also repaired major leaks and installed a rainwater harvesting system.
- **Walk for Water:** Their standout initiative “Walk for Water Day” saw the entire school walk up to 6km carrying water, raising awareness of global water challenges.
- **Community Engagement:** The school connected with Tidy Towns, parents, and community members to organise visiting speakers and eco-friendly workshops. They proudly showcase their efforts to the wider community through social media and their Green Flag.

Why does this matter?

Repairing leaks and harvesting rainwater reduces demand on treated drinking water supplies. River studies and biodiversity activities help students understand how pollution and habitat loss can affect water quality and wildlife. Community engagement enables the school to draw from expertise while also pooling resources and leveraging collective efforts with various stakeholders.





SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Pobalscoil Inbhear Scéine

Their Approach

Creativity and community are at the heart of Pobalscoil Inbhear Scéine's approach to water conservation.

What They Did

- **Learning from Local Experts:** Students engaged with local experts, including Uisce Éireann and LAWPRO, to deepen their understanding of Kenmare's water systems, including water quality testing at their local river.
- **Mural Creation:** Central to the school's work is a striking mural, developed in collaboration with an artist through the Artists in Schools programme, which brings the story of water in Kenmare to life and stands as a reminder of their commitment to protecting water.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** The Committee conducted a student survey to assess the level of knowledge and attitudes towards water conservation. They surveyed all the taps in the school and checked that there were no leaks or drips. To see if there were leaks at school, the team regularly monitored the water meter and water bills.

Why does this matter?

Learning about local water systems and monitoring water quality encourages students to become informed stewards of the water their communities depend on. Art offers a powerful way to communicate what we value and want to protect, sharing these messages with the wider school community and visitors.



Beaufort College

Their Approach

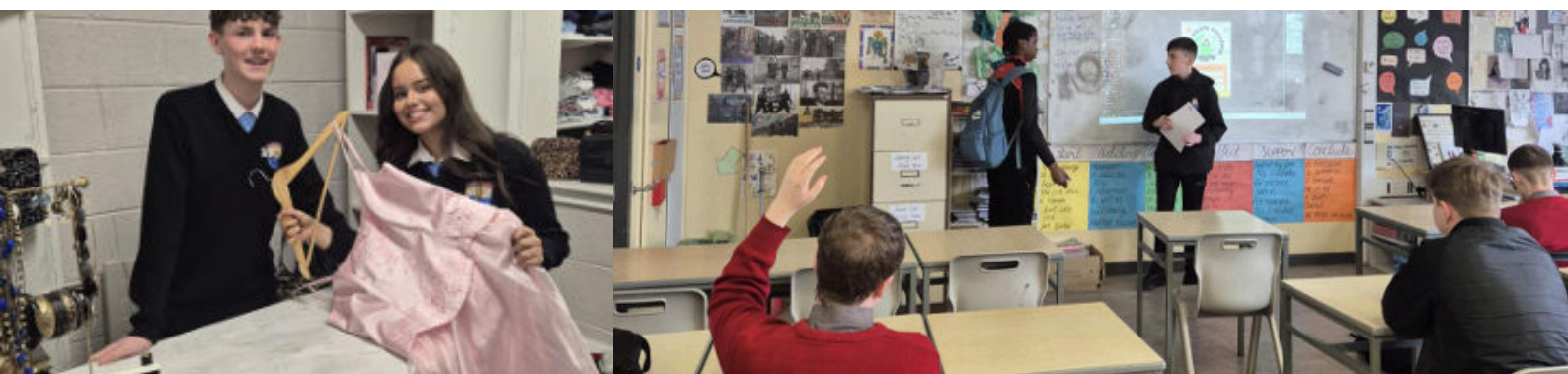
Water conservation at Beaufort College is driven by student leadership, practical action, sustainability education, and a strong commitment to reuse and resource stewardship.

What They Did

- **Circular Economy in Fashion:** Initiatives such as the student-run Beaufort Boutique, Christmas Swap Shop, and Uniform Clinic encourage reuse amongst the student body, reducing waste and lowering the water footprint associated with producing new items.
- **Peer Education & Student Action:** Students lead "Drop Everything and Learn" lessons and manage awareness campaigns on social media. They also implemented practical actions, such as installing sensor water fountains, distributing reusable bottles to all first-year students, tracking water usage, and maintaining water butts.
- **Leveraging Existing Initiatives:** Water is explored through existing programmes such as the Enterprise sustainability project, TY Climate Action classes, and across subjects including Science, CSPE, and English, creating visible links to the curriculum and bringing the Green-Schools programme to life through meaningful, real-world learning experiences.

Why does this matter?

Reusing clothes through swap shops and repair initiatives lowers the enormous water footprint associated with manufacturing new textiles. Practical measures such as water fountains, reusable bottles, and rainwater collection also reduce waste and encourage sustainable water use. By building on existing initiatives, this team uses established structures to more easily and effectively share learning and promote adoption.



Coláiste Iognáid

Their Approach

At Coláiste Iognáid (The Jes), water conservation is a priority, reflected in the work of its 35-member Green Schools Eco Advocates Water Quality Committee and a broader environmental movement that involves over 100 students in sustainability initiatives.

What They Did

- **Water Quality Initiatives:** Over the past four years, Transition Year students have led hands-on water quality projects where they test phosphates, nitrates, and pH levels, carry out kick sampling, and study biodiversity of local waterways.
- **Local Environment & Wider Community Connections:** In partnership with organisations like Corrib Beo, LAWPRO, and Galway City Parks, the group has taken five field trips to local waterbodies, including the River Corrib and Lough Corrib.
- **Communicating Impact:** Through multiple submissions to the local paper, short film creations, poetry writing and recitation on YouTube, and even a poster exhibition at a community festival, this team shared its learning and advocacy through diverse, creative channels.

Why does this matter?

Monitoring nutrients and water chemistry helps identify pollution that can harm aquatic ecosystems and drinking water sources. By studying biodiversity in waterways, students form emotional connections with their local environment and gain a deeper understanding of the ecosystems that depend on clean water. Their long-term commitment and sustained communication efforts foster create a sense of shared responsibility, encouraging active community engagement.



Ballyhaunis Community School

Their Approach

Ballyhaunis Community School's whole-school approach to water conservation, combines peer education, creative expression, and active engagement to empower students to raise awareness of local and global water issues and foster a shared commitment to responsible water use.

What They Did

- **Peer Education:** Students shared their learning from monitoring water usage and researching local and global water sources across the school by creating short informational videos and giving talks.
- **Collective Art Piece:** In collaboration with the Art Department, students created a large-scale piece titled "Water World", along with posters and visual displays to represent their learning and shared commitment to water awareness.
- **Whole-School Soccer Blitz:** Another highlight was a whole-school soccer blitz. Organised by Transition Year students with a Fifth Year Geography class, each team represented a drought-affected African country, linking sport with global water issues.

Why does this matter?

Raising awareness about local and global water issues helps students understand the importance of using water responsibly and protecting limited freshwater resources. Exploring drought and water scarcity also highlights how water conservation supports communities' health and wellbeing, and food production worldwide.

