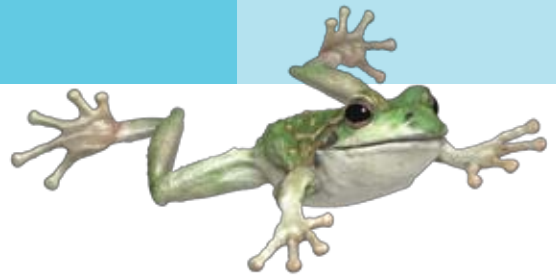


Waterwise Checklist

Sept 2009

Schools/education facility water conservation



This checklist provides water conservation options, and raises awareness of water issues. Specific information is available in the Waterwise Business series of Information Sheets.

Getting started with user education/awareness

Schools are excellent organisations to implement water conservation. Students can be an enormous resource for ideas on using less water in their daily activities. An added benefit is that measures students learn at school about water use may be taken home and put into practice there. However, before engaging students, teachers and administrative staff must be committed to supporting new and potentially challenging efforts to reduce water consumption. Consider the following steps to implement a successful water conservation program at your educational facility:

- Educate and involve employees and students on water conservation.
- Get input and ideas from staff and students. Locate suggestion boxes in prominent areas.
- Conduct student contests that seek ideas for posters, slogans and water conservation suggestions.
- Encourage water conservation at home as well.
- Identify areas of water consumption in and around the facility. Install signs in all restrooms encouraging water conservation.

Develop a water efficiency program where you:

know water-using sources, their purposes and related costs; identify options to use less water and set reduction goals; offer incentives for successful ideas; delegate responsibility for implementing options; and chart progress and post results.

- Specific information is presented in Waterwise Business Information Sheet – Water Efficiency Program.

Immediate low or no cost options

Initiate school-wide conservation campaign

- Make conserving water at your school an effort that affects all students, teachers, administrative staff, and even visitors/volunteers.

- Adopt a motto/slogan or character that represents the school's endeavours to reduce its water use.
- Get everyone involved; send home notices that explain the school's intent to conserve water.
- Publicise the status of the program during daily school announcements or in newsletters. Incorporate water conservation into the student curriculum.
- Feature a water efficiency display in common areas to highlight the program.
- Track and measure water consumption and make everyone aware of usage and reductions accomplished.
- Check out <http://www.watercorporation.com.au> for schools information.
- Specific information on setting up a water efficiency program is presented in Waterwise Business Information Sheet – *Water Efficiency Program*.
- Identify water usage, and repair leaks (one leaking tap can waste around 200 litres per day!)
- Check water meter readings to monitor water use and determine periods of peak usage. Identifying patterns of water use may also help to identify any inconsistencies due to leaks or non functioning equipment.
- Provide posters and signs in bathrooms as water conservation reminders (stickers are available from the Water Corporation) with contact information on reporting leaks.
- Repair leaks in dripping taps, toilets, pipes, pumps and other water supply lines.
- Turn off any unnecessary flows and turn off equipment when not in use.
- Check valves and switches on all water-using equipment and replace/repair as necessary.
- Ensure hot water supply lines are insulated.

Pool and spas

- Use a pool cover to reduce water loss due to normal evaporation.
- Repair any swimming pool leaks. A 25 mm per day leak in a 5 by 10 m pool can waste approximately 450 kL per year!
- If a pool is heated, reduce your pool and spa water temperature. Warmer water evaporates more quickly.

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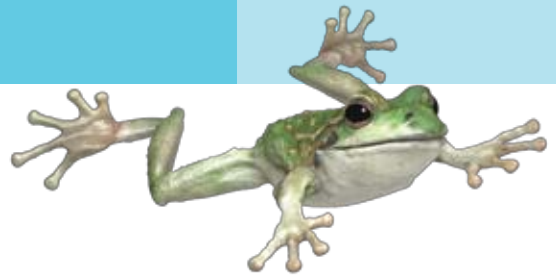
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- Shut down unnecessary fountains and waterfalls. The effect of aeration loses a significant amount of water to evaporation.
- Evaluate filter back wash schedule; reduce back washing to minimum without compromising public health and safety.

Food preparation areas

- Do not use running water to thaw foods; place in refrigerator to defrost.
- Pre-soak utensils and other items in sinks rather than under running water.
- Turn off continuous flow to wash drain trays of post mix machines, clean trays as needed.
- Turn off dishwasher when not in use and only use when full. Ensure water flow rates are set at the manufacturer's minimum required levels.
- Practice dry clean up by sweeping. Use squeegees to remove surface and floor residuals/debris before washing with water.
- Consider reducing or eliminating nightly hosing in kitchen areas where mopping will provide adequate cleanliness.
- Adjust ice machines to produce only the amount necessary.

Menu considerations

- Purchase fruits, vegetables and salad ingredients in 'ready-to-serve' form instead of fresh that requires considerable rinsing with water.

Landscaping

- Observe water restrictions when watering gardens and lawns.
- Water only when needed.
- Ensure sprinklers are directed to landscape areas and not to roads and paved areas.
- Plant native and drought tolerant plants and grasses.

Long term options

Fixture and equipment retrofits

- Install flow restrictors and aerators on taps where appropriate.
- Install water efficient showerheads.
- Retrofit on-line (no cistern) toilets and urinals with water efficient

valve replacement kits.

- If only replacing a limited number of fixtures, replace heavily-used units in high traffic areas first.
- For dish washing machines, replace spray nozzles with water efficient types.
- If using hoses, ensure they are fitted with high pressure, low volume nozzles.
- Retrofit once-through water-cooled refrigeration and ice machines and incorporate into recirculating cooling loop wherever possible.
- Install high pressure/low-flow spray rinsers with automatic shut off for pot washing.
- For ice machines, install flow regulators to prevent excess flows through the icemakers.

Equipment modifications/purchases

- Identify once-through ('single-pass') cooling ice machines and consider replacement with air-cooled models.
- Alternatively, supply cooling water for the ice machine from the plant's recirculating chilled water system.
- Otherwise, reuse the cooling water for some other purpose, such as landscape watering.
- Consider life cycle costing and replacement of water using equipment such as dishwashers, refrigeration units and ice machines with water efficient and air cooled models.

Laboratory considerations

- Ensure all washing equipment has aerated spray nozzles equipped with shutoff valves.
- Eliminate once-through water cooling of lab equipment such as autoclaves and lasers by incorporating into a recirculating chilled cooling loop.

Water reuse, recycling and flow restrictions

- Adhere to WA Health Department regulations for water reuse.
- Ensure the final rinse water from the dish machine is used for the initial rinse in the next wash sequence.
- Reduce water pressure to building and associated fixtures (sinks, toilets, showers, laundry and dishwashing machines) as appropriate.

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Success story

The Water Corporation's Waterwise Schools Program involves over 400 schools throughout WA. For further information on participating in the program visit www.watercorporation.com.au.

References

DPPEA FY02-08 – North Carolina Division of
Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance.

Further information

Key Customer Relationship Management
Customer Services Division
Water Corporation
PO Box 100 Leederville WA 6902
Ph: 1310 39
E-mail: cust_centre@watercorporation.com.au

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13 13 85 General Enquiries

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