



ecoTude

changing your schools ecological attitude

Water use walkthrough

What you are auditing?

From the water use walkthrough you will be able to create an inventory of all the items that consume the bulk of the water in the school.

Why are you auditing it?

The water treatment plant that supplies water to your school contributes to your schools ecological footprint due to the 'upstream' environmental impacts of its construction and operation. Every major appliance that uses water contributes to the schools footprint. The 'upstream' impact from the raw materials, manufacture and transport are considered for each item.

For most areas of Australia water is considered a limited resource that must be conserved. Conducting a water walkthrough audit also identifies potential water saving actions that could be implemented after the audit.

How do you do it?

1. Before you begin a walkthrough audit you will need to plan ahead and consider the following:
 - a. Who will conduct the audit? Small teams investigating different areas of the school will save time.
 - b. When will you conduct the audit? So you don't disrupt classes the lunch break may be the best time.
 - c. How will you get access to student restricted areas? Seek permission and have a staff member present.
 - d. How will you know that every area of the school has been done? Using a map of the school divide it up into sections. Allocate out each section and record who is doing what area.
 - e. Do you have the resources to conduct this walkthrough at the same time as one of the others?
- 2.. Determine what questions in the calculator can be answered by this particular audit and note them down.
3. Develop a template to record your observations. A sample is shown below.

Water Use Walkthrough Audit			
Location	Item	Comment	Ideas
Girls toilets C Block	5 toilets	One cistern leaking Single flush	Fix leak Replace with dual flush
	2 sinks	Taps left running	Install timer taps Lock toilets overnight and weekends
Rose Garden	Sprinkler system	On during heat of the day Water landing on path	Select a new watering time Adjust sprinkler direction Replace with natives they need less water
	Tap	Vandal proof tap – special handle required	-
Canteen	Dishwasher	Leaks & is old	Replace with an energy efficient one

4. Water using items the items you should look out for include:
 - Bubblers
 - Sinks
 - Cisterns
 - Dishwashers
 - Urns
 - Showers
 - Standalone taps
 - Hoses
 - Sprinkler systems
 - Pools
 - Water features
 - Boilers
5. In the audit make comments on the current use of the item and list any ideas for reducing your schools water consumption. In the comments section note if any items are dripping or leaking or do not use water efficiently. You may also want to note the water source if it is different.
6. Once you have developed a plan, conduct your audit!
7. After completing your audit collect all your data together.
8. Locate the water use items on a school map for future reference.
9. Analyse your data in relation to the calculator questions.
10. Record your results in your Eco'tude journal.
11. Enter your results into the online calculator. How has the footprint changed from your best guess trial?

Taking it further

1. Determine how much water is being wasted by leaky taps and pipes.
2. Measure the daily water usage by undertaking a meter audit.

