

Local Water Actions for Global Change

What is a Global Goal?

In 2015, the United Nations came together and agreed upon 17 Global Goals (also called Sustainable Development Goals), to work towards achieving peace and prosperity around the world by 2030. The Goals are a call to action, for all countries to work together to end poverty, reduce inequalities, improve health and education, protect the environment and tackle climate change. We can all take action to support the Global Goals and make a difference!

Global Goal 6 is “Clean Water and Sanitation”.

This goal aims to make sure that everyone has access to clean, safe drinking water, toilets and washing facilities. This is a very important goal because without clean water and sanitation, people are vulnerable to disease and can become sick, or even die. Around the world, billions of people still drink unsafe water, don't have proper hand-washing facilities or toilets. Achieving Global Goal 6 is one of the most important steps to



ensure everyone has the opportunity to live a long and healthy life.

DID YOU KNOW?



More than **733 million** people live in countries where not enough water is available.



3 billion people worldwide may be drinking unclean water, because it is not being tested.



We need to protect our rivers and lakes – in Ireland, almost half (**46%**) of our rivers and lakes are of poor quality.

- In places without nearby access to drinking water, women and girls must walk long distances each day to collect water for their families. This means they miss out on school, and because they don't receive a proper education, they can miss out on job opportunities too. You can learn more and raise awareness about these issues by organising a “Walk for Water” in your school. Check out our website for more information.
- Treating water uses energy and costs money. It takes about three days for our water to be properly treated and cleaned before it comes out of our taps. Wasting water means wasting energy too – and contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. Saving water where possible, and using harvested rainwater for things like flushing toilets and watering plants, is an important way to help reduce our carbon footprint and tackle climate change.
- In Ireland, the wastewater from 32 towns and villages is not being treated properly before being released into the sea. Irish Water are working to reduce this number within the next few years.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

You can take action to support the Global Goals!

- Find out about your water – where does it come from? Where is it treated? And where does it go when you wash it down the sink or flush it down the toilet? Visit www.water.ie to find out more about your local water and wastewater treatment plants.
- Set up a water butt or rainwater harvester in your school, to collect rainwater to water the school garden. This saves using high-quality treated tap water that takes a lot of energy to produce.
- Check your taps and toilets for leaks and ask your school caretaker for help fixing them.
- Raise awareness about the importance of saving water and share ideas and water saving tips with your school community.
- Carry out a litter clean-up in your area to help protect our rivers, lakes and beaches.
- Test the water quality in your local river, lake or stream, and think of ways to protect our waterways – like by switching to eco-friendly cleaning products in your school.
- Organise a Walk for Water in your school to raise awareness about the journey that women and children have to make every day to collect drinking water for their families. Visit our website www.greenschoolsireland.org for more information.
- Visit www.worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org to find out more about the Global Goals and how you can help achieve them.



www.greenschoolsireland.org

