WATER

SUSTAINABLE CLUB PROGRAMME

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

The Sustainable Club Programme is an initiative of the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE).

WE'RE TAKING CLIMATE ACTION

HOW TO USE:
The Water Toolkit

Water

Water Conservation

The Water Conservation section of the Toolkit contains advice and guidance on water conservation in your club. It includes a simple club house audit to help your Green Team identify areas where you could make water savings in your club and grounds.

The toolkit contains a water conservation action idea sheet, with a range of short, medium and longer-term actions your club can choose from to conserve water in your clubhouse and activities.

The toolkit also contains suggestions and resources for organising a five-minute shower challenge and, for clubs that have easily and safely accessible water meters, easy-to-use template to track your club's water use.

Water Quality

The Water Quality section of the Toolkit contains advice and guidance on identifying and reducing the impact your club activities have on water quality and water wildlife in your areas.

It includes a simple audit template to help your Green Team identify areas where your club activities risk contaminating or causing harm to local waterways or water quality.

The Water Quality section of the Toolkit also includes a range of ideas from which your club can choose to reduce your harmful impact on water quality and to promote awareness of and engagement with local waterways and with water heritage in your community.

The Water Toolkit contains the following guidance sheets and resources:

WATER CONSERVATION	
ASSESS	Water Conservation Audit Template
	Water Meter Reading Sheet
IDENTIFY	Water Conservation Action Ideas
	Organising a Five-Minute Shower Challenge
ACT	A Water Conservation Action Plan

Identify opportunities to save or recycle water in your club.

HOW TO USE:
The Water Toolkit

Water

WATER QUALITY	
ASSESS	Water Quality Audit Template
IDENTIFY	Prevent & Protect – Water Quality and your Club
	Celebrate – Bringing Water & Biodiversity to Life
	Create – Sustainable Water Management Creation Projects
	Sport and Waterways
ACT	A Water Quality Action Plan

TOP TIPS

Start Small The Green Club Water Toolkit contains a wide range of ideas for action and engagement. With your club Green Team, consider choosing one or two small actions from these to begin with. Actions that are easy to plan and implement, that are visible and that deliver quick wins will build morale and momentum.

Keep an eye on funding opportunities Green Teams sign up to their Public Participation Network (PPN) to receive updates on funding opportunities in their council area https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/a58b8-community-groups-public-participation-networks/

Identify opportunities to improve the water quality in your community.

ASSESS:
Water Quality Audit

Water

The Green Club Water Quality Audit is designed to help your Green Team to identify potential sources of pollution or harm in your club ground as well as opportunities for action to improve water quality and awareness in your club and community. The 'Identify' resources later in this document will help your Green Team turn your audit observations into simple, impactful actions.

Where is your club water supplied from?	☐ PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ☐ PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY (e.g., Group scheme) ☐ OWN WELL ☐ DON'T KNOW
Where does your club wastewater go?	☐ ON-SITE TREATMENT (e.g. septic tank) ☐ OFF-SITE (e.g., public sewer, to wastewater treatment plant) ☐ DON'T KNOW
Do you know the location of your nearest waterway (e.g., stream, river, canal, lake, sea)?	☐ YES ☐ NO
Is your club adjacent to a wetland, waterway or waterbody?	☐ YES ☐ NO
If yes, is there a buffer zone (e.g., trees, hedges, unmown vegetation) between your facilities and the wetland or waterway?	☐ YES ☐ NO
Do you have oil storage onsite (e.g., fuel for generators, heating oil, vehicle. machinery oil)?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ DON'T KNOW
Do you use chemicals, herbicides or fertilisers in your club grounds?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ DON'T KNOW
Do you know where the storm drains are on your club grounds?	☐ YES ☐ NO
What happens to your grass clippings?	☐ THEY ARE MULCHED ☐ THEY ARE COLLECTED FROM SITE ☐ THEY ARE STORED IN PILES ON SITE ☐ DON'T KNOW
Do you have any water or biodiversity information boards, posters, or signs in your club grounds?	☐ YES ☐ NO
Is the club in or near a Priority or Protected Area catchment or in close proximity to a public or private groundwater source of water supply?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ DON'T KNOW

ASSESS:
Water Conservation Audit

Water

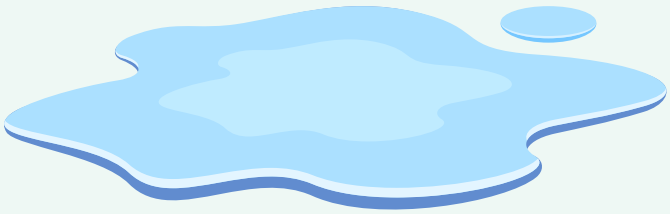
The Green Club Water Conservation Audit is designed to help your Green Team to identify opportunities for water conservation in your clubhouse and grounds. Consider walking the site with the club Green Team or fellow volunteers to gather the information to complete the water conservation audit.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR WATER USE	
What are the major water users in your club? (e.g. showers, sinks, toilets, urinals, pitch irrigation, bar or kitchen equipment etc).	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.
Do you have a water meter in your club that is safely accessible and easy to read?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A
TAPS & TOILETS	
Are any of the taps in the toilets dripping or leaking?	☐ YES ☐ NO
Are any of the taps in the kitchen dripping or leaking?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A
Are the taps in the bathrooms self-closing (push) taps?	☐ YES ☐ NO
If not, is the flow rate in your taps higher than 9 litres per minute? (See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgKV_ET9cMU for tips on how to measure the flow rate).	☐ YES ☐ NO
Are the toilets in the clubhouse dual flush or single flush models?	☐ DUAL FLUSH ☐ SINGLE FLUSH ☐ UNSURE
Are any of your toilets leaking?*	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE
Do the urinals flush overnight?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE
Are urinals shut off during the holidays?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE
Are your water pipes insulated?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE
* Signs of leaking toilets include constant streams of water down the toilet bowl or constant sounds from your water tanks. If you are unsure, consider putting some drops of food colouring in the cistern and wait 15 minutes without flushing to check if the colour leaks through the toilet bowl	

ASSESS:
Water Conservation Audit

Water

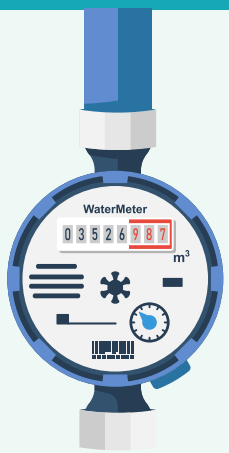
SIGNS OF LEAKS INCLUDE RUNNING WATER OR WET AREAS WHEN IT HASN'T BEEN RAINING.



SHOWERS AND SHOWERING	
Are the shower taps self-closing (push) taps?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE
Do the showers have low flow or efficient shower heads?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE
If not, is the flow rate in your showers higher than 9 litres per minute? (See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgKV_ET9cMU for tips on how to measure the flow rate).	☐ YES ☐ NO
OUTSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE	
If you have an outside tap, have you checked it for drips or leaks?	☐ YES ☐ NO
If you have an outside tap, is the tap and any exposed pipework insulated?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A
Are there planting or biodiversity areas on the club grounds?	☐ YES ☐ NO
If yes, are these watered by hose or watering can?	☐ HOSE ☐ WATERING CAN ☐ OTHER
Do you have a water butt or other rainwater collection onsite?	☐ YES ☐ NO
Is there evidence of water leaks around the clubhouse?**	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE
* Signs of leaks include running water or wet areas when it hasn't been raining; an unusually lush growth of grass or plants near pipework especially during dry weather; low or variable water pressure in the taps.	
IF YOUR CLUBHOUSE HAS A BAR OR FUNCTION ROOM	
Are any of the taps in the bar dripping or leaking?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE
Do you have a dishwasher or glasswasher?	☐ DISHWASHER ☐ GLASSWASHER ☐ NEITHER
Is there a best practice policy in place for cleaning beer lines, for health & safety and water efficiency?	☐ YES ☐ NO

ASSESS:
Water Meter Reading Infosheet

Water



Taking regular water meter readings can help your club establish a baseline of water usage in your club, ensure your water bills reflect your actual usage and identify leaks and water losses.

If your club has a safely accessible water meter installed, consider taking regular (e.g., weekly or fortnightly) meter readings to gain a picture of your actual water usage and to identify any unexpected or unusual spikes in usage.

WATER METER READING TEMPLATE			
Date	**Time**	**Meter reading**	**Usage since last reading**

ASSESS:
Water Meter Reading Infosheet

WATER METER READING TEMPLATE			
Date	**Time**	**Meter reading**	**Usage since last reading**

IDENTIFY:
Water Conservation Action Ideas

Water

Here are some ideas for water conservation in your clubhouse, ranging from no-cost immediate actions to bigger projects and upgrades.

SHORT-TERM Some minor planning and/or club consultation may be needed.
MEDIUM More extensive club consultation and/or planning required.
LONG-TERM Action as part of wider club project, build or upgrade.

Consider including some of these in your Green Club water conservation action plan.

REDUCE LOSSES		
Action	**Type**	**Tips**
Repair all dripping and leaking taps in and around the club house.	IMMEDIATE Low to moderate cost.	A dripping tap can waste up to 150 litres of water each week. Tightening or replacing the washer can often fix the problem.
Repair leaking toilets.	SHORT-TERM Low to moderate cost.	60% of clubhouse water use is from toilets and urinals.
Check for and repair leaks outside the club house.	SHORT-TERM No to low cost.	Signs include running water or wet areas when it hasn't been raining; unusually lush growth of grass or plants near pipework especially during dry weather; low or variable water pressure in the taps.
Implement a simple review and maintenance regime in the club to check regularly for, and repair, leaks and losses.	SHORT TERM No cost.	See https://www.water.ie/help/leaks/check-for-leaks/ for more information on identifying leaks.
To prevent frozen and cracking pipes in the winter months, ensure that all exposed pipes are adequately insulated.	IMMEDIATE No cost.	Wrap a towel around uninsulated outdoor taps in cold weather.

TOP TIPS

If your club is planning an upgrade, extension or new build, ensure that water conservation measures are included in the design and build. These could include water efficient taps and showers, waterless or water-efficient urinals, rainwater harvesting for use in the facility, water treatment and recycling.

IDENTIFY:
Water Conservation Action Ideas

Water

REDUCE USE		
Action	**Type**	**Tips**
Install a solenoid valve or similar on urinals so they can be turned off whenever the clubhouse is not in use.	IMMEDIATE Moderate cost.	Ensure a flushing/water safety programme is in place when the clubhouse is closed for longer periods.
Insert cistern blocks or similar in cisterns of older and single-flush toilets to reduce the amount of water used.	IMMEDIATE Low cost.	Cistern block or bags can be purchased at a low cost or can be homemade (e.g., a two-litre milk bottle filled with water). Older toilets with single flush cisterns typically use at least 9 litres per flush; cistern blocks can reduce this by several litres per flush. Newer and dual flush toilets use less than 6 litres per full flush and 3 litres on half flush.
Install aerators on club taps to reduce flow.	SHORT-TERM Moderate cost.	If the flow in your taps is higher than 9 litres/minute, consider installing aerators to reduce the unnecessary water use.
Install aerators on club showerheads to reduce flow.	SHORT TERM Moderate cost.	If the flow in your shower is higher than 9 litres/minute, consider installing aerators to reduce unnecessary water use.
Launch a five-minute shower-challenge in the club.	IMMEDIATE No cost.	See the Green Club Five-Minute Shower sheet for tips on running a shower challenge in your club.
Replace old taps in the toilet sinks with self-closing or water-efficient taps.	MEDIUM Moderate cost.	Self-closing taps automatically shut off the water flow after a certain time.

TOP TIPS

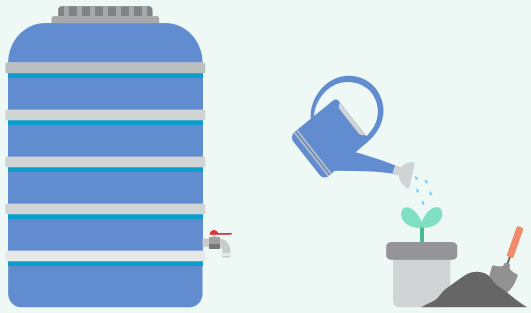
Taking regular water meter readings can help the club:

- Understand usage patterns across the year, across activities and across major water users.
- Save money by ensuring your water bills reflect your actual cost.
- Identify leaks and water losses.

See the Green Club Water Meter Infosheet for more tips and advice.

IDENTIFY:
Water Conservation Action Ideas

Water



Your Green Team and club members can calculate how much water they use at home via:

https://www.water.ie/conservation/home/water-conservation-calculator/

REDUCE & RECYCLE ON CLUB GROUNDS		
Action	**Type**	**Tips**
Collect rainwater in a water butt for watering plants and biodiversity areas in the club.	IMMEDIATE Low cost.	See https://www.water.ie/conservation/home/water-butts/
For smaller planted areas, use watering cans rather than hoses to water.	IMMEDIATE Low cost.	Consider using a rosehead watering can instead of a hose and aim for the roots of plants.
Where a hose is used for watering, install a flow restrictor and/or trigger gun to reduce wastage of water.	SHORT-TERM Low cost.	If you do use a hose, ensure the water is turned off when the hose is not in use. Where possible, water plants in the early morning or late evening. This saves water from evaporating and avoids plants being scorched.

TOP TIPS

If your clubhouse has a bar and/or catering facilities,

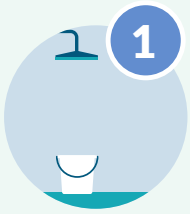
- **Check sinks, taps and glass- and dishwashers for leaks.**
- **Use full dishwasher and glasswasher loads – this typically uses much less water than handwashing.**
- **Consider water-efficient devices when next buying equipment like dishwashers or glasswashers. Domestic dishwashers typically use between 10 and 20 litres of water per cycle while the most efficient glasswashers can use between 2 and 10 litres per cycle.**

IDENTIFY:
The Five-Minute Water Challenge

Water

1. Identify a team or teams to take part – secure the support of team management or mentors.
2. Hold a quick briefing with full team and management to explain the challenge as well as the water and energy conservation reasons behind it.
3. Nominate a Shower Challenge Champion or leader for each team.
4. Establish a baseline by recording initial shower times (optional – see sample template on next page).
5. Team members commit to showers that are at most five minutes long.
6. The Shower Challenge leader(s) make the five minutes call – or nominate teammates to do so – after each training or match when showers are in use.
7. Calculate your water savings using the tips below.

HOW TO MEASURE YOUR CLUB SHOWER FLOW



Place a bucket or bowl under the showerhead.

Have your phone timer or stopwatch ready.

Turn the shower on fully and start your timer.

Let the water run into the bucket or bowl for **ten** seconds (ensure the shower is turned off or the bucket/bowl removed after ten seconds exactly).

Measure the amount of water captured in the bucket, e.g., by using a measuring jug.

Multiply the amount of water by six to get your shower flow rate. For example, if you collected 2 litres of water your shower flow rate is **2 x 6 = 12 litre/min.**

HOW MUCH WATER DID WE SAVE?

A. Baseline Use = shower flow rate* x average team baseline x no. team members x no. trainings/matches in challenge period.*if available. Otherwise use 9 l/minB.

B. Challenge Use = shower flow rate x 5 (mins) x no. team members x no. trainings/matches in challenge period.

Water Saving = A - B

Example: For a team of 18 using showers twice a week for two months (16 showers each in total), with an average baseline shower time of 9 mins and a flow rate of 8 l/min.

A = 8 x 9 x 18 x 16 = 20,736 litres

B = 8 x 5 x 18 x 16 = 11,520 litres

Water Saving: 9,216 Litres

ASSESS:
Club Shower Challenge

Team: _____ **Date:** _____

Team Member	Baseline Shower Time	Target Shower Time
TEAM AVERAGE:		

IDENTIFY:
Prevent & Protect

Water

WATER QUALITY AND YOUR CLUB

Pollutants entering waterways or water bodies can cause habitat destruction, kill aquatic wildlife, cause poor water quality and ruin the amenity value of our rivers and water bodies. This 'Prevent & Protect' checklist will help your Green Team identify where your club might be causing or have the potential to cause harm to water quality and waterways. The action ideas on the pages that follow give more details on the items on the checklist and include simple and practical steps your club can take to reduce or eliminate harm.

WATER QUALITY PROTECT & PREVENT CHECKLIST		
1.	All drains are correctly connected, with all wastewater going into the foul drains.	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A
2.	There are posters or signs up in the clubhouse to help reduce the risk of drain and toilet blockages.	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A
3.	All oils (e.g., diesel, central heating oil, petrol) are correctly and safely stored in secure and well-maintained storage tanks.	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A
4.	The septic tank is regularly maintained and de-sludged. The area around the tank is regularly checked for leaks or ponding of wastewater.	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A
5.	Use of chemicals, e.g., herbicides, has been minimised and any chemical use is in accordance with best practice guidelines.	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A
6.	All grass clippings are sustainably disposed of.	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A

CHECK THAT ANY CHEMICAL USE IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES.

IDENTIFY:
Prevent & Protect

Water

WATER QUALITY AND YOUR CLUB

1. Check Your Connections

THE ISSUE:

- There are typically two main drains on sports club grounds: surface water drains (also known as storm drains), for rainwater, and foul drains, for wastewater from the clubhouse toilets, taps and plumbed appliances
- Surface water drains take rainwater, untreated, to rivers or the sea, while foul drains take wastewater to treatment plants or to your septic tank.
- If drains are connected wrongly, polluted water from the clubhouse will run directly into rivers or the sea, damaging biodiversity and wildlife and posing a threat to human health.

THE ACTIONS:

- Check that the drains from your clubhouse – e.g., from toilets, sinks and plumbed appliances like washing machines and dishwashers – are connected to the foul drains and aren't running into surface water drains. See https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/niea-proper-use-drains-leaflet for more information and advice.

2. Avoid Blockages

THE ISSUE:

- When poured down the sink, fats, oils and grease from catering or club activity, as well as food scraps and coffee grinds, can cause serious blockages in pipes and drains and can result in sewer overflow and risks damaging water quality, biodiversity and human health.
- Anything other than the 3 Ps – pee, poo and paper – flushed down a toilet can cause blockages in your clubhouse and in the sewer system and can cause damage to the marine environment.

THE ACTIONS:

- Use posters in your clubhouse toilets and kitchens to raise awareness among clubhouse users.

3. Store Oil Safely

THE ISSUE:

- If your club stores oil (e.g., diesel, central heating oil, petrol) on club grounds, ensure that this poses no risk to the environment, water quality or human health.

THE ACTIONS:

- Check that your oil storage tank is adequately and suitably supported, is secured and stable and that your oil storage complies with regulations in your jurisdiction.
- Your tank should be located at least 10m from surface water courses (e.g., rivers, streams, field drains) and 50 m from wells or boreholes.
- Regularly inspect your tanks for any signs of leaks, corrosion (steel tanks) or deformation or discoloration (plastic tanks).
- Check that all pipework is free from damage and adequately supported or protected.
- Check if your tank is bunded (i.e., that oil is stored in a 'tank within a tank'). Bunding offers protection against oil spillage. This is best practice for tanks
- Keep an emergency spill kit on site in case of any spill, leakage or accident.

4. Maintain Septic Tank

THE ISSUE:

- If your club wastewater discharges to an on-site septic tank, ensure this is maintained properly to avoid contamination of water or harmful discharges that could damage biodiversity and human health.

THE ACTIONS:

- Check the area around the septic tank regularly to ensure there are no signs of ponding or soil contamination
- Have the system serviced and desludged regularly. Contact your local authority for a list of permitted contractors.
- Ensure that grease, excessive bleach or chemicals, food, disposable items and rainwater aren't getting into your system. Use the following resources to minimise blockage risks to your septic tank: https://www.water.ie/help/blockages/think-before-you-pour/
- More advice is available at: https://www.protectourwater.ie/Leaflets/1_POW-WhatYouNeedToKnow_Eng.pdf

5. Reduce Chemical Use

THE ISSUE:

- The use of chemicals such as herbicides or pesticides in your club grounds can cause serious damage to biodiversity and water quality.

THE ACTIONS:

- Consider eliminating pesticide and herbicide use in your club. See the 'Reduce Use of Herbicides' information sheet in the 'Identify' section of Biodiversity Toolkit for a herbicide-elimination for more information.
- Where herbicide use cannot be avoided, spot treat the target areas only
- Do not spray in wet conditions or when heavy rain is forecast
- Do not spray near gullies, manholes or storm drains
- Store all chemicals safely
- Ensure that all grounds people, volunteers or staff that are involved in groundskeeping are fully briefed on safe and responsible use of chemicals
- For more tips and advice see: 'Reduce Use of Herbicides' information sheet in the Biodiversity Toolkit or https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/media/pesticides/content/sud/ResponsiblePesticideUsePublicAmenityGardenAreas200217.pdf

6. Sustainable Management of Grass Clippings

THE ISSUE:

- If grass clippings are collected on-site and incorrectly stored, the liquid that is produced during decomposition of the grass can leach into the soil and cause harm to water and biodiversity.

THE ACTIONS:

- Mulch your grass clippings so that they do not need to be gathered and stored.
- If you collect your grass clippings for compost, ensure that the composting station is on a hard, impermeable base so that liquid does not leach into the soil or surface water drains.
- If your club can neither mulch nor safely compost your grass clippings, talk to your waste management provider about green waste collection.

IDENTIFY:
Celebrate - Bringing Water & Biodiversity to Life

Water

Yellow Fish

- The Yellow Fish Project is an international initiative aimed at raising awareness of stormwater drains and their connection to local rivers and streams.
- Your club can participate by spraying a stencil of a yellow fish by storm drains on clubgrounds to highlight that these drains lead directly to local rivers and streams and that anything other than rainwater entering them can cause significant harm to river wildlife and biodiversity.
- Signs can be put up inside or outside the club house to explain the significance of the yellowfish to club members.
- For more information see: https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/learn/engaging-with-communities-yellow-fish/

Take part in a river or marine litter pick

- Consider getting the club involved in a community, river or marine litter pick, e.g.: Big Beach Clean: https://cleancoasts.org/
- If your club is organising an independent litter pick, ensure that all health and safety measures are followed and that you have confirmed that insurance cover is in place as necessary. Contact your local council point of contact or waste management company in advance to arrange litter collection and disposal.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Ensure you are signed up to your local Public Participation Network (PPN) newsletter to receive updates on funding and projects in your county or council area. https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/a58b8-community-groups-public-participation-networks/
- Follow the media channels and website of your local council for news of upcoming funding programes
- Learn about funding opportunities for water and biodiversity projects under the Community Water Development Fund https://lawaters.ie/funding/

IDENTIFY:
Celebrate - Bringing Water & Biodiversity to Life

Water

If your club has already undertaken many of 'Prevent & Protect' and 'Celebrate' water quality actions, your Green Team might be interested in a Creation project.

Rainwater falling on hard surfaces such as roof tops, paving, footpaths and roads can result in increased flooding and pollution. This 'Create' action sheet contains ideas of how your club can reduce the risk of flooding in your club grounds and lessen the impact on waterways and biodiversity.

CREATE A MINI-POND OR MICRO WETLAND

Ponds and wetlands can be really important biodiversity hotspots and can be used to reduce the impact of rainwater runoff on the local waterways.

CREATE A BUFFER ZONE

If your club facilities are adjacent to a river or water course, consider planting or maintaining a biodiversity zone – e.g., a wildflower meadow or native hedgerow – between your facilities and the river to lessen flood risk, to protect against harmful runoff form the club and to enhance biodiversity.

CREATE A RAIN GARDEN

A rain garden is a small area, slightly lower than the ground around it, where rainwater runoff can gather and that is planted with or managed for suitable native grasses, plants and flowers. Rain gardens can reduce flood risk, can help filter out pollutants from rainwater runoff, can create habitats and food for pollinators and can be an attractive and useful addition to club grounds.

INSTALL A HYDRATION STATION

The installation of a hydration station or filtered water font at your club, used along with the guidance on eliminating plastic bottles at: https://mywaste.ie/dispose-waste/sports-clubs/, can help reduce plastic waste.

CREATE A MINI FOREST

Having native trees on club lands is hugely important for biodiversity and can have a positive impact on water management and waterways. Even small areas planted with native woodland are of benefit to wildlife. Trees are important along rivers as they provide shade and shelter for fish, help to stabilise riverbanks, help regulate floods and their leaves provide food for aquatic creatures. However, seek expert advice if planting a large number of trees by a river or waterway as too many trees along a riverbank can partially block sunlight, impacting fish numbers by affecting instream algae and the food chain.

CREATE A POROUS CARPARK

If your club is planning to pave an area of club ground, e.g., for car parking, consider porous paving, which allows rainwater runoff to penetrate through the surface into underlying soils. This reduces flood risk and can reduce the pollution risk to rivers and streams.

TOP TIPS

See the 'Working with Water, Biodiversity and Climate' community guide at https://lawaters.ie/publications/ for more ideas and project examples.

If your Green Team is considering a water quality creation project in your club, contact your Local Authority Waters Programme Community Officer (https://lawaters.ie/team/communities-team/) for advice.

IDENTIFY:
Community Water Projects

Water

Communities coming together to protect and promote water quality can have a big impact on local rivers and waterways, drinking water quality, local biodiversity and ecosystems, and local livelihoods and amenities

1. Tree planting and riparian biodiversity work
2. Silt trapping or 'Slow the Flow" Natural Flood Retention Measures such as the addition of large woody debris to drains
3. Rain garden and SuDS
4. Innovative techniques for monitoring water quality and biodiversity
5. Rainwater harvesting on roof of buildings and use of recycled water
6. Coastal or lake nature safari and stewardship project by local fishermen and recreational users
7. Fish passage project
8. Planting of native wild flowers and vegetation in habitat restoration project

Graphic courtesy of the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPro).
See https://storiesfromthewaterside.ie/catchment-living/

9. Citizen science project led by anglers
10. Bespoke breeding boxes for birds and mammals
11. Wetlands to promote wildlife and reduce pollution and flooding
12. Removal of invasive species and biosecurity planning
13. Outdoor biodiversity classroom

TOP TIPS

If your club or community is planning a community river, waterway or water quality project, think about getting in touch with your Community Water Officer at https://lawaters.ie/team/communities-team/

IDENTIFY:
Sport and Waterways

Water

Ireland has been shaped by its waterways – geographically, economically and also culturally, in our songs, stories, writing and oral traditions. Some of Ireland's most well-known rivers – including the Shannon, the Erne, the Boyne, the Liffey – are named after the Celtic goddesses who were the guardians of their catchment areas.

Consider planning your Green Club water quality actions around the river and waterway heritage of your community. Follow the three simple steps below to create an action plan that celebrates the water heritage of your community and protects the water quality in your catchment area.

1. Map your club

Some club grounds are located directly beside or within view of a river or waterway. For other clubs, the link between their club and waterways might not be so visible. Using a catchment mapping tool is an easy and very effective way of bringing these links to life .

Use the Catchment Mapping Tools below to situate your club within your local catchment area and to identify any local water features of interest.

- https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water (choose 'River Waterbodies' from the 'Water, Land & Soil'menu and zoom into your club location).
- Use the other menu options to identify other characteristics, e.g., the flow direction of the nearby rivers and waterways and to establish whether or not your club is in or near a protected area or a drinking water supply area.

2. Explore your local water heritage and history

- Consult your local history group for information on any history or folklore related to the water heritage of your local area (e.g., relating to rivers, wells, lakes, bogs) or of significant historical water-related events (e.g., floods, river pollution) that have had an impact on the local community.
- Use the placenames list below to identify whether the name of any townlands or areas around your club and community are linked to rivers, waterways or water heritage.

IDENTIFY:
Sport and Waterways

Water

3. Take action to celebrate your water heritage

- Use this resource to develop an action plan structured around your local water heritage.
- Consider including in your action plan at least one 'Prevent & Protect' action to reduce your club's impact on waterways in your catchment area and one 'Celebrate' action to highlight your club's links to local rivers and biodiversity. See the resource hub for funding opportunities.
- If you have developed a water action plan for your club or area and need further guidance, contact your local authority point of contact.

Exploring Water Heritage through Local Placenames	
Gaeilge	**Béarla**
ABHAINN	RIVER
ÁTH	FORD
BÁ	BAY
BÉAL	OPENING, MOUTH (E.G. OF RIVER)
BUN	(RIVER-)MOUTH, BOTTOM(-LAND)
CAOL	A NARROW; MARSHY STREAM
COMAR	CONFLUENCE; MEETING-PLACE
CORA	WEIR, STONE-FENCE, FORD
CUAN	BAY, HARBOUR, RECESS
EANACH	MARSH
FEADÁN	WATERCOURSE, STREAM
GAOTH	WIND *OR* INLET, ESTUARY
GLAS	GREEN *OR* STREAM
INIS	ISLAND; RIVER MEADOW
LÉANA	WATER-MEADOW
LOCH	LAKE; INLET
LUACHAIR	RUSHES, RUSHY PLACE
MÓIN	BOGLAND
MÓINÍN	SMALL BOGLAND

Exploring Water Heritage through Local Placenames	
Gaeilge	**Béarla**

IDENTIFY:
Water Conservation Action Plan

Club Name:

Date:

No.	Action Details	Person(s) Responsible	Targeted Completion Date
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Completed by:

IDENTIFY:
Water Conservation Action Plan *SAMPLE*

Water

Club Name:

Date:

No.	Action Details	Person(s) Responsible	Targeted Completion Date
1	Take monthly readings from the water meter and look into any spikes in usage.	J. Barry	Start 1/12/2025
2	Repair the dripping tap in kitchen.	M.O'Reilly	December 2024
3	Run a five-minute shower challenge with senior hurling team.	S.Hanford	March 2025
4	Install two water butts to gather water to be used to water the herb garden and biodiversity areas.	J.Barry	February 2025
5	Put a filled two-litre water bottle in the toilet cistern in the dressing rooms.	M.O'Reilly	December 2024
6	Meet to review actions and assess water savings.	All Green Team members	June 2025

Completed by:

IDENTIFY:
Water Quality Action Plan

Club Name:

Date:

No.	Action Details	Person(s) Responsible	Targeted Completion Date
PREVENT & PROTECT			
CELEBRATE/CREATE			
REVIEW			

Completed by:

IDENTIFY:
Water Quality Action Plan *SAMPLE*

Water

Club Name:

Date:

No.	Action Details	Person (s) Responsibe	Targeted Completion Date
	PREVENT & PROTECT		
1	Check drains are correctly connected and carry out inspection of generator oil tank.	EP	31 January 2026
2	Put up 'think before you flush' posters in all toilets and changing rooms.	SB	14 January 2025
	CELEBRATE/CREATE		
3	Contact local school on running a joint 'Yellow Fish' campaign in the club and school.	M Ní hÉ	31 February 2025
4	Install biodiversity signage around the club walkway.	EP	1 March 2025
	REVIEW		
	Hold a review meeting to assess actions and impact.	All	30 May 2025

Completed by: