

Water Quality

- Run water quality tests on your drinking water and present your findings to the school administration.
- Test a local water body for common contaminants and quality (temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc.) and invertebrates (indicating a healthy ecosystem). Report your findings on a display in the school.
- Learn about your school's watershed, source of your school's drinking water, and where it drains. Create a simple map of your school's location within the watershed.
- Work with local conservation agencies to organize a restoration project near the school or in your watershed.

Water Conservation

- Run a campaign to have students and staff sign pledges on water conservation and water protection as a call to personal action (home and school) (e.g. shorter showers).
- Learn about the water conservation benefits of using native plants for landscaping and present your findings and potential for native plants at your school to your administration or other appropriate audience.
- If your school uses pressure washing or hoses to clean sidewalks and other concrete, measure/estimate how much water is used per year on this activity. Provide alternatives and cost comparisons to using water for these activities. Present your findings and recommendations to your administration or other appropriate audience.
- If you have a school garden, change to a more water-efficient method of watering. Switch to capturing rainwater in rain barrels, or using efficient methods like drip irrigation, watering timers or other options.
- Assess and plan what drought tolerant plants could be planted at your school or in your community.
- Have your school switch to electric mulching mowers.
- Begin tracking your school's water usage and associated costs. Students could use these data to create charts, graphs, presentations to community members or other audiences, and display monthly usage results in a common area. Tracking your school's water usage could help your school measure the impact (and financial savings) of your newly adopted water conservation practices.

Planning/Education/Outreach

- Run an educational campaign for staff and students about actions they take that can affect surface water quality in your school and community.
- Connect your local watershed to the science curriculum.
- Incorporate water quality/conservation lessons into other subject areas (art, poetry, literature).
- Contact local agencies to find out what resources, programs and technical assistance in water protection or conservation is available for your school (speakers, classroom resources, technical assistance, grant programs, special projects, etc.). Schedule a speaker, program or technical assistance for your school.
- Introduce students to careers in water protection and conservation. Have a career day and schedule several speakers from your area that work on water protection and conservation issues.
- Learn about the water conserving benefits of compost and/or mulch, and propose the use of it at your school to your administration.
- Research the differences in water required to grow fruits, vegetables, grains and meats and present your findings to the school community (students, teachers, parents, PTA, nutrition services director and school board). Include recommendations for changes in your lunch program.

Water Quality & Conservation Action List

- Research how different agricultural production methods affect downstream water quality (including produce, meat and grains). Present your findings to the school community, with recommendations for your school foodservice.
- Research water impacts of processing and packaging food served in your cafeteria and present your research to the school community, with recommendations on changes that should be made, if any.
- Present an in-service training related to water quality and conservation to teachers, school staff, or PTA.
- Explore the positive and negative impacts of hydropower as a renewable resource. Understand it for energy use and why turning off lights helps aquatic species including salmon. Create a display to show others in your school about your findings.
- Calculate stormwater runoff – measure area of roof and other impervious surfaces—and the associated stormwater fee (use in Math classrooms). Think about ways to divert the stormwater away from the storm water drains and put it back to use. Present your ideas to the administration.
- Research pervious surface alternatives for all impervious surfaces (concrete, asphalt, roofing) and calculate the amount of stormwater reduction if replaced. Present your findings to the administration for use when remodeling existing surfaces.
- Develop a policy at your school to protect your local watershed by choosing actions that conserve and protect water sources. Present your recommended policy to the administration.
- Provide outreach to the community about earth friendly car washing practices.
- Research rain gardens and their benefits and design elements. Determine if a rain garden is appropriate at your school and present your findings along with a proposed location to the school administration.
- Learn about the use of rain barrels for capturing rain water and using it for irrigation. Determine if rain barrels would be appropriate at your school and present your findings and ideas to your administration.
- Based on your Water Quality/Conservation Assessment, determine how much water is used per year to water lawns/fields. Recommend replacing any non-field lawns with shrubs or native plants and calculate the water savings (in volume and \$). Present your findings and recommendation to the administration.
- If your school will be remodeling or adding new buildings in the near future, research low impact development techniques. Present your findings to your school's administration for use in future construction projects.
- Based on your Water Quality/Conservation Assessment, determine water savings (in volume and \$) for one year for one of the following: faucet fixtures (aerators and motion sensor), low-flow toilets and waterless urinals, low-flow shower heads, or irrigation systems. Present your findings to the administration.
- Research how the design of playfields can reduce irrigation needs. Determine if your school could redesign your playfields to incorporate the water-saving benefits. Present your findings to your administration.
- Design a campaign to run a "green" car wash using car wash kits
Examples <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/stewardship/carwash-kit.aspx>
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/washington_waters/carwash.html
- Present to school groups about the negative effects of fundraiser car washes that do not meet the "no illicit discharge" law.
- Finalize and implement a water quality protection policy regarding charity carwashes and alternatives (coupons, carwash kits, education about where and how.) Contact water resources person.
- Incorporate precipitation gauge data into the school curriculum.
- Establish an Environmental Club, Water Club, or other club that focuses on environmental issues and projects in your school and community.
- Have older students teach younger students activities or lessons relating to water quality and conservation.
- Perform a skit, puppet show, or other type of entertainment about water quality or conservation in your school to the school, community, or another school.



Water Quality & Conservation Action List

- Design a print advertising campaign to educate other students about the water quality or conservation actions at your school.
- Design a display for the foyer, commons, cafeteria or other public space to educate students and staff about your school's water quality and/or conservation actions.
- Make a public service announcement film or radio ad about water quality or conservation in your school and involve your local media.
- Give a presentation to school board, PTA, or other appropriate group, proposing a new district policy or procedures that would address water quantity and water quality issues.
- Mentor another school in your school district or county to improve its water quality or conservation practices.
- Establish a relationship with a sister school internationally with similar academic/environmental goals so students can be engaged with the global community. Share information with whole school community.
- Research three local or international schools to learn what they are doing to conserve water, and how they are measuring and evaluating their results. Present your findings to the school community or other appropriate audience.
- Identify barriers to making additional improvements in water quality or conservation based on your Water Quality & Conservation Assessment. Propose solutions to your school or school district.
- Create a school-wide recognition program for students who participate in water conservation activities outside of the classroom and/or have students partner with a community groups, non- profits, businesses, etc. on a water conservation related projects.
- Other _____
What other significant water quality or conservation practice could your school implement? Make a plan and take action.