



IDENTIFY:

WATER CONSERVATION ACTION IDEAS

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/ or https://www.niwater.com/siteFiles/resources/2022/InformationLeaflets/DealingwithLeaksST8.pdf 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.



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 GAA 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 amount of time, reducing the risk of taps being left running and sinks flooding. 
Install water awareness posters throughout your clubhouse.	IMMEDIATE Low cost.	Sample posters and templates are available in the GAA Green Club Toolkit.

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.



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/ or https://www.savewatersavemoney.co.uk/ for more tips.
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.	IMMEDIATE 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 glasswasher can use between 2 and 10 litres per cycle.**

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

Irish Water users:

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

NI Water users: <https://www.getwaterfit.co.uk/>