

Project Title – Be Water Aware

- A collaboration between ech₂o, Hackney City Farm, and 10 schools in Hackney. The project was supported by Thames Water as part of their School Water Makeover.



Provide details of the project that has influenced behaviour and led to water savings



- Hackney City Farm’s 60 steps to 60% initiative was launched in 2009 to work with the local community show that small incremental steps can have a large overall impact on an individual’s or organisation’s carbon footprint.
- Thames Water’s School Water Makeover combined technological improvements in the schools such as urinal controls and save-a-flush bags, with education for the pupils about sustainable water use.
- Aqualogic retrofitted the technological solutions in the school. ech₂o worked

with the pupils to influence behaviour change.

- Between January and July 2009 ech₂o worked directly with 2,403 school pupils and 120 teachers to provide behaviour change solutions to water usage both at home and in school.

What were the drivers that made you decide on the project?



- The south east of the UK is under increasing water stress and heating hot water in homes accounts for 5% of the UK’s carbon emissions.
- The schools involved in the project had high water use. Water consumption ranged from 5.5 to 17.3m³ of water/pupil/year with an average consumption of 8.0m³/pupil/year. The typical benchmark for UK schools is 4.4 m³/pupil/year for secondary schools and 5.2m³/pupil/year for primary schools with a best practice figure of 2.6 and 3.0 m³/pupil/year respectively. Therefore all schools had plenty of scope to improve.
- Reducing the school’s water bills would free up funds for books or other learning aids.



- Many pupils in Hackney schools come from homes where paying the bills is a struggle. Although most pupils did not pay for water via a meter, bills for heating water can be substantially reduced when shorter showers or shallower baths are used.

Describe how you engaged and enabled the participants to save water



- Engagement was via a two pronged approach. Education and encouragement. How much do you use now, and where? What actions result in the most water saved? Why is it important for the environment to save water?
- It is important for individuals and organisations to know how much water they currently use, to understand how best to reduce their use.
- For school water use bills were analysed to ascertain actual water consumption, and the

results presented visually at assembly, and ech₂o water experts led selected pupils in carrying out a water audit of the school to identify good and bad practice.

- To reduce consumption at home, pupils calculated their own water consumption and compared it to the UK average. Usage ranged from 64 litres to over 400 litres a day. Pupils at the higher end of the range have more scope for large water savings

How much water, energy and CO₂ savings were achieved?

- Yearly savings from water efficiency measures in 11 schools in Hackney are estimated to be:
 - ~ 6,004m³ of cold water
 - ~ 4.5 tonnes of CO₂
 - ~ £10,267
- Savings were achieved by installing urinal controls, fitting save-a-flush bags, and upgrading taps.
- Yearly savings from behaviour change at home from pupils in 10 school across Hackney are estimated to be:
 - ~ 16,751m³ of hot water
 - ~ 174.5 tonnes of CO₂
- Savings were achieved by save-a-flush bags to reduce WC flush volumes, shower timers and information about the savings high water using pupils and their families could make by reducing the time they spent in the shower or having shallower baths.
- Monetary savings were not calculated for dwellings as most pupils did not live in homes with a water meter and information was not collected about whether they heated water using gas or electricity.