



Be Water Aware - ech2o and Hackney City Farm.

A joint entry from ech2o and Hackney City Farm.

“Be water aware” involved 10 local schools and its ‘60 steps to 60%’ initiative to work with the local community show that small incremental steps can have a large overall impact on individuals and organisations.

The principle of teaching children good habits that they can take home and out to their friends and relations is good, if sometimes only an ideal.

Explaining about water conservation at school should not only benefit the school with reduced water and associated energy consumption, but has the potential to ripple through the community and change the habits within the community.

Although measuring the impact of such a scheme, and in fact any behavioural change program, is not easy, this does not mean that it is not worthwhile. In Hackney 10 schools took part in Thames Water’s School Water Makeover.

This programme involved the use of retrofit devices such as urinal controls, WC cistern water displacement devices and educating the pupils about saving water both at school and at home. So pupils determined how much water they used for various activities, analysed the school water bills and carried out water audits.

The savings per school were estimated to be over £1,000 a year and for the homes associated with the schools a saving of around 175 tonnes of CO2 a year from about 16,750 m3 of hot water. So this is a project that if rolled out through the country could have great benefits for the UK’s water and energy consumption.

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