

Water for Schools case study

The “Water for Schools” programme (WfS) was a partnership established in 2011 to make schools in London more water sustainable. The programme ran for four years (2011 – 2014) and consisted of a partnership of four core board members: Environment Agency (EA), London Sustainable Schools Forum (LSSF), Greater London Authority (GLA), and Thames Water Utilities Limited (TWUL).

This case study aims to summarise the activity of the project over this time, as it was delivered to one school. This study will cover all activities delivered to that school, when and how they were delivered, and any challenges along the way.

Project school in North London

Automated Meter Reading (AMR) equipment installed

Once participation in the programme had been agreed and explained to the school, the first action was to install the AMR equipment in order to measure the proceeding interventions. AMR installation at this site was completed on 28th November 2012, with equipment fitted to all 3 meters on site (1 x main meter, 2 x bypass meters)



‘Green Doctor’ engagement visit

Once the AMR equipment was installed and proven to be working correctly, the school was offered an engagement visit by our contractor, Groundwork London. A trained engagement facilitator visited the school on the 28th January 2013, to talk to pupils and staff about water and energy efficiency. The visit also involved a pupil-lead water and energy audit, and instruction on simple measures to save water in school. In addition, the school was also offered education materials on water source, resource and efficiency for use in Citizen Science and geography classes.



Education visit

On 12th February 2013, Groundwork London also provided an education visit to the school. A water-focussed assembly was delivered, along with a more detailed classroom session on water and energy efficiency, where pupils fill out pledge cards to change their behaviour.



Water Audit

Following on from the engagement visits, the school was offered a free water audit and retrofit visit by our contractor, Aqualogic. This looked at school consumption and plumbing fixtures, to see if any water efficient devices could be installed to reduce overall consumption. The audit identified a total of 10 toilets requiring device installations. These were supplied and fitted for free, but were worth a total of £330.00.



Leak detection

Once the above visits were completed, the AMR equipment detected that the school had an ongoing problem with continuous consumption, with consumption occurring at night when the school was closed. As part of our activities in Phase III of the project, we targeted schools with these problems. In December 2013, our leakage detection contractors conducted a leakage survey at the school, checking all pipes and plumbing equipment for leakage or wastage. The survey found that 3 ball-valves on storage tanks were faulty, causing the continuous consumption. These were repaired by the school in early 2014. Meter data showed that replacing these faulty items resulted in a water saving of 1,680 litres per day, or 613,200 litres per year. Based on current charges, this will save the school up to £1,269.32 per year on their water bill.

