

ADJUDICATION PROCESS

- There are about 30 judges in the Tidy Town panel.
- They include **Architects, Planners, Landscape Architects, Horticulturists, Ecologists, Sustainability** experts and Tourism specialists as well as former **Community Activists** from Tidy Towns
- Usually **one judge does a county**, although in some cases, a county may be shared with two judges.
- Every entry receives **one visit by a judge** and depending on the population size, the time spent judging will vary from one hour to five or more hours.
- Entries in the top league receive a **second adjudication by a different judge**.

- **It is suggested that reports for at least five years be studied to obtain the views of different professions.**

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ADJUDICATION PROCESS

- **Eircode**
- **Public toilet facility**
- **It is best to reduce the time spent reading the application to allow the judge more time for the site visit.**
- **Reduce the size of the application by**
 - Minimum amount of information in a clear and concise way
 - Include pictures throughout the text where relevant
 - Short sentences, bold and bullet points
 - **Print not to exceed 40/50 pages or even less.**

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Community - Planning and Involvement

Community - Your Planning and Involvement

60 Marks

Marks are awarded for the overall quality of the Entry Form, town/village map and appropriateness of backup material submitted with your entry. Other key issues are the participation of the local community, businesses, schools and youth in general; working partnerships with local civic agencies; works carried out and appropriate projects completed; existence of an achievable updated TidyTowns Plan. Consideration will be given to social inclusion of residents in activities.

Number involved in

Number not on com-

Please indicate level of meetings, general in-

Please list all of the through sponsorships

How do you communi-

How do you engage your work, do you

Identify any specific can include ongoing

- **This section of the application form takes up just over a page.**
- **When some applicants complete this section they expand it to perhaps 30 pages.**
- **That is too many pages and too much information for the adjudicator**
- **Less than ten pages should be the target**
- **Brief responses highlighted are easier and quicker for the adjudicator to read**
- **Avoid long sentences and long paragraphs**

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Briefly identify **ONE** specific project where particular effort was applied since June 1st, 2023. (This can include ongoing maintenance work or new project)

Pay particular attention to this question and suggest only **ONE project** that in your view deserves special attention from the adjudicator – or - did not receive sufficient attention by the adjudicator last year or previous years.

Do not submit more than one project

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ADJUDICATION PROCESS

- **Judges are human** and can make mistakes. They can also be influenced by the standard of the applications and accompanying maps.
- Judges will (most likely) pay more attention to matters within their own discipline although they will cover all eight criteria.
- Judges do not revisit a community **within a five year period**.

- **It is suggested that reports for at least five years be studied to obtain the views of different professions.**

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Completing the Application Form

- **There is no need for A4 size pictures.** On the other hand, small pictures of groups of people are of little value
- **Restrict the use of pictures to your project activities** or to highlight something that the judges cannot see during the visit – examples include festivals and spring floral displays.
- **Print not to exceed 40/50 pages or even less.**
- The DRCD is moving towards a complete digital application. The transition has been done by accepting only email applications.
- **The final phase will be the uploading of the application to a site that will have restricted space for text.**

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Submitting the Application Form

- **There is a limit of 20 mb.** on what they can receive and that could be the size of a photograph. Therefore the completed forms should be compressed to a size less than 20 mb.
- For security reasons, the **DRCD is not allowed** to use a share drive such as Google or Dropbox.
- **Large emails block their system and prevent other emails getting through.**
- **From 2020, DRCD no longer acknowledge receipt of applications. Instead, they register them as they are received and this register is available on their website.**
- **Therefore, it is the responsibility of each Tidy Town Committee to check the website and see if their application was received (registered)**

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Brief responses highlighted are easier and quicker for the adjudicator to read
Avoid long sentences and long paragraphs

How do you communicate with your community (newsletter, newspapers, public meetings, email, social media, website, etc.)?

We value the support of our community and use the following means of communication with them:

- **Text Alert, Email and Facebook**
- **Notices read at Mass and Church, in Parish Newsletters and in other Parishes**
- **Local Media Print and Voice**
- **Public Meetings**
- **Flyers – which we keep to a minimum to reduce the use of paper**

How do you engage with your local schools, youth clubs, etc.? How do you involve youth in your work, do you have a Junior TidyTowns, is there youth representation on your committee.

EXAMPLES OF RESPONSES

- One committee member is a member of the Board of Management who liaises with the School Green Schools Committee, and they have just earned their fifth flag in the Biodiversity category.
- Currently we also have two members from one of the parish Secondary schools volunteering with us whilst working towards their Gaisce award.

Brief responses highlighted are easier and quicker for the adjudicator to read
Avoid long sentences and long paragraphs

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Community - Planning and Involvement

3 – 5 year plan

Shared vision of what can be achieved

Key Principles

- **Short** – no longer than 5 pages
- **Direct** – Outline how, why and when you are going to undertake jobs
- **Realistic** – Projects should be capable of being implemented and refer to the timescale
- **Yours** – The plan is the group's work programme and should reflect their objectives and capabilities

The Multi-Annual Plan

- Simple and easily read document
- A4 size map or A3 folded to A4 is best
- Mark the tasks locations on the map

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Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cover the three dimensions of sustainable development; economic growth, social inclusion and the protection of the environment. There are 17 SDGs, with each goal having a number of sub-targets whereby TidyTowns committees can align their projects or initiatives to one or more specific goals.

Symbols for the relevant goals for each criterion are shown at the top of each page - intended to be a guideline for suitable projects.

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Multi Annual Plan - Example

Project Name	Description	Partner Agency	2024	2025	2026
Greenway	Develop a greenway along disused railway track	Tealrod Eireann and Local authority	✓	✓	✓
Wildflower Meadow	Develop a wildflower meadow on open space at Ard na Greine estate	Residents of Ard na Greine estate	✓	✓	✓
Seating in local park	Provide an additional 3 seats in the local park	Local authority and possible sponsors	✓		
Vacant house in Main Street	Paint windows onto boards on openings and paint the front facade	To obtain support from the owner and possible sponsorship		✓	
Hedge planting	Identify locations for additional hedge planting	Private property owners and local authority		✓	✓

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Maps

- It is essential to include a map showing the extent of the town or village that is entered in the competition.
- For small centres, it should be possible to include the entire area but this can be difficult for large towns and cities.
- While a hand drawn sketch will suffice in many cases, it is relatively easy to acquire a satellite view or Google map that may be accurate and to scale – although it may not have changes of recent years.

Superimpose on the map/drawing, a North point and the roads leading to neighbouring towns/villages.

Label the major landmarks such as a church or school.

If the community manages an area outside the town or village boundary, then mention it and provide directions for the adjudicator.

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Maps

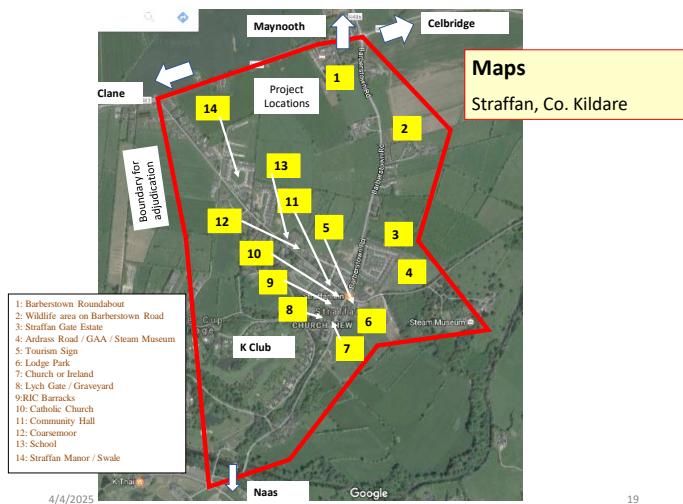
- Label the projects for the adjudicator to visit and show the **legend on the same page**.
- Place numbers on the map in a sequence that facilitates ease of finding them.
- The identification system should be easy to understand and be easily referenced to the information in the application.
- Use of a colour, symbol and numbering system works best for a large community with many places to visit.**
- For example, use SP1, SP2 etc. for Streetscape and Public Places. Alternatively use **circles, triangles, squares, stars etc.**, or other symbols to identify the criterion.
- The use of different colours for different criteria may also help.**
- A combination of all three systems may also be used.**

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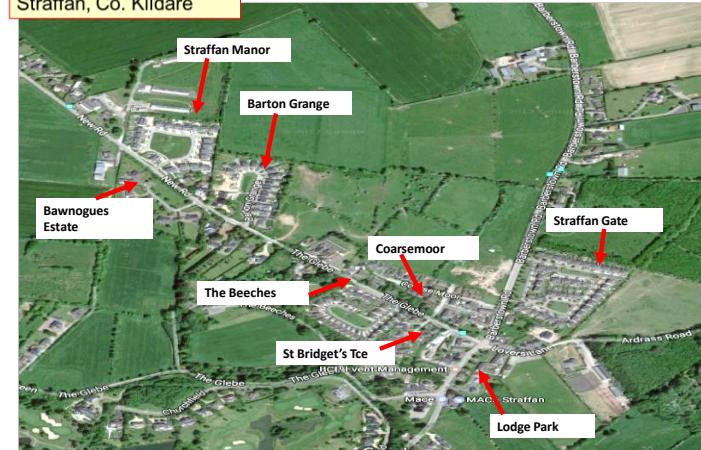
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Maps

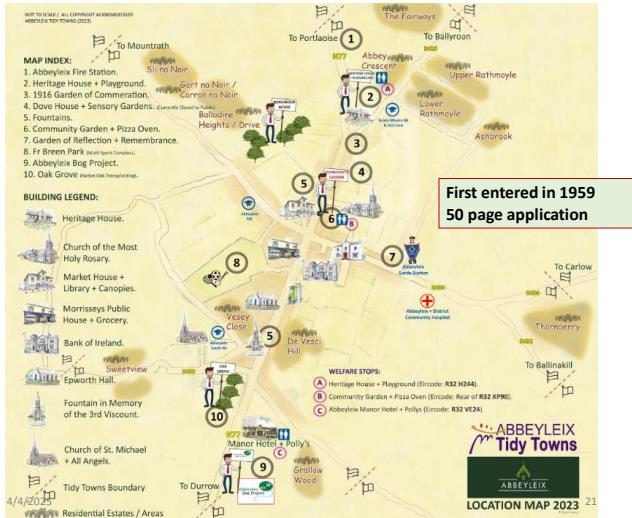
Straffan, Co. Kildare

Residential Estates Map



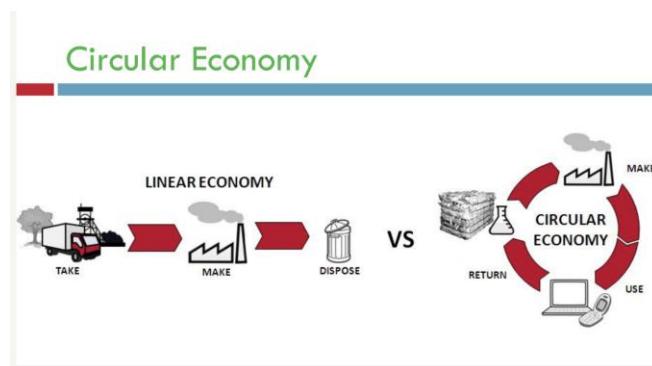
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Sustainability – Doing More With Less



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2024 SUSTAINABILITY – DOING MORE WITH LESS.

Kerry	
Cahirsiveen	28
Glenbeigh	28
Kenmare	28
Tralee	29
Waterville	26

<u>Kilkenny</u>	
Kilkenny	26
Inistioge	30
Windgap	21

Offaly

Clare

<u>Limerick</u>	
Galbally (376)	34
Castleconnell (372)	28
Adare (381)	27

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South Dublin County Council



in development or planned for the future. The plan has 5 action areas:

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2019-2024

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Sustainability – Doing More With Less

Reuse

Share

- Book Box, Free Libraries
- Organise a platform for sharing baby clothes and equipment

Events

- Swap event for uniforms, sports gear, tools, toys, clothes
- Bring & Buy sale
- Greener parties

Competitions

- Organise an upcycling competition
- Competition to create items from reused materials

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- Support your local Charities & Voluntary Groups
- Local Shoe Box Appeal
- Take one /leave one behind
- Include marginalised individuals

- Book Swap
- Free community Library
- Skill Share

- Clothes swaps and second-hand sale
- Second-hand toy sales
- Poster Free Election Policy

- Local Communities are the experts
- Comhairle Na NÓG
- Local Groups



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Sustainability – Doing More With Less

Upcycling

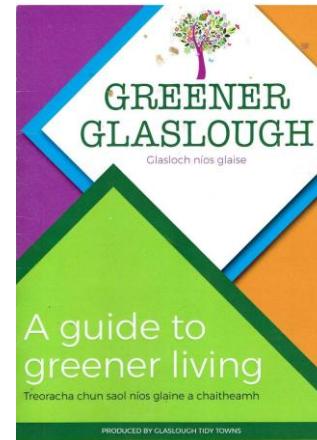


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Greener Glaslough

REMEMBER... REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, REPAIR, RETHINK

RESPONSIBILITY REINVENT REFUSE RECOVER RETHINK

REPLANT REFUSE RECOVER RETHINK

REPAIR REUSE RECOVER RETHINK

RETHINK REUSE RECOVER RETHINK

REDUCE REUSE RECOVER RETHINK

RESTORE REUSE RECOVER RETHINK

REMEMBER REUSE RECOVER RETHINK

RETHINK REUSE RECOVER RETHINK

REDUCE REUSE RECOVER RETHINK

REPAIR REUSE RECOVER RETHINK

RETHINK REUSE RECOVER RETHINK

REUSE REUSE RECOVER RETHINK

REPAIR REUSE RECOVER RETHINK

RETHINK REUSE RECOVER RETHINK

REPAIR REUSE RECOVER RETHINK

HOMES
GARDENING
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS
BUSINESSES
INDUSTRY
TOURISM

Sustainability – Doing More With Less

Repair #MakeThingsLast

- Repair My Stuff.ie
- Workshops & Skills development
 - Respraying, furniture restoration, upcycled furniture, refinishing
- Rediscovery Centre & ReCreate offer courses
- Repair Guide
 - List local repair outlets
- Bike Repair
- Repair Cafes
- Repair Friday

The image shows a screenshot of the 'IRELAND'S LEADING ON-LINE REPAIR DIRECTORY' website. It features a search bar and a grid of icons representing various repair categories like clothes, electronics, and furniture. To the right, there is a 'Tyre Health Check' service from 'The Fix Factory' which allows users to check if a tire is fit for the road.

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Sustainability – Doing More With Less

What is a Sustainable Energy Community (SEC)?



A community that works together to develop a sustainable energy system for the benefit of the community

- Aiming to be as energy efficient as possible;
- Use renewable energy where feasible;
- Consider smart energy solutions

It can be as small as a street or as large as a county or region



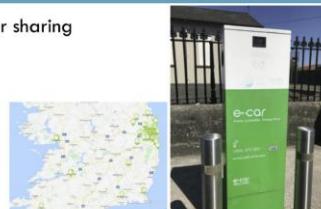
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Smarter Travel

Sustainability – Doing More With Less

- Promotion of car sharing
- Electric vehicles
- Charge points
- WOW / COW
- Cycle Bus



Quick List -Sustainable Transport

- ✓ Green Schools Travel Theme - www.greenschools.ie
- ✓ Promote Walking – Walkability Survey, Get Ireland Active, Operation Transformation, Healthy Heart Walks
- ✓ Cycling – Safe cycle routes, cycle –skills local cycle clubs, family fun cycles
- ✓ Park'n'ride – Park'n'Stride
- ✓ Car Pooling
- ✓ Using Public Transport

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Shop Local

- Environmental benefits, supporting local jobs, businesses reinvest into community

The image shows a promotional campaign for local shopping. It includes a tote bag with the text 'Local Businesses', a 'SHOP.LK' gift card, and a poster with the slogan 'Christmas is coming... Please spend a penny in a LOCAL Shop'. The poster also features a cartoon character and the text 'Don't forget to bring along your SHOP.LK Gift Card to Letterkenny! Many thanks to you all.'

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- Shop Local
- Community based workshops
- Community driven activities/festivals

ECONOMY

- Local Markets
- Energy Co-ops
- Work with industry in your communities
- Such as Supervalu

Look at social inclusion in your area

- Join or start a Befriending initiative
- Local Information points

My Waste

- Stop Food Waste Programme
- Environmental Policy -Ditch the disposables
- Reuse, Recycle, Upcycle
- Conscientious Consumerism think Local

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Herbicides - Over use is not attractive and harmful for the environment



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BIOCIDES

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7.5 Eobiotic herbicides

Eobiotic refers to substances that is endogenous to an ecological system. Eobiotic herbicides are therefore made with ingredients extracted directly from plants or animals, or microbial synthesis, e.g. vinegar, as opposed to being produced synthetically i.e. xenobiotic. A range of eobiotic materials have been tried for weed control, including plant oils such as pine, cypress, cedar, manuka, eucalyptus, red clover, clove, lemongrass, cinnamon, mint, rosemary and sage. Allelopathic maize and mustard seed mixes, fatty acids derived from plant oils including pine, coconut and rape seed, and concentrated organic acids including acetic acid and citric acid have also been researched. Being eobi-

otic, they are biodegradable and leave no residues. However, all of them are general biocides so they do not just kill weeds, but they may well impact non-target species as well. Thus, in the interest of preserving species beneficial to the farming system, eobiotic herbicides should be used as a last rather than a first resort.

Nevertheless, there is an urgent need for more research to accelerate the development and implementation of effective organic-compliant herbicides that are environmentally safe and that help the producer meet increasing consumer demand for organic products.

Examples include plant oils such as pine, cypress, cedar, manuka,, eucalyptus, red clover, clove, lemongrass, cinnamon, mint, rosemary and sage.

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Alternative Weed Control Options

Prevention: While it's not possible to prevent 100% of weed growth, there are several measures which would suppress weed growth, including a more regular cleaning programme of footpaths and gullies to prevent a build-up of growing substrates. Hand-held and Tractor-mounted weed brushes have been successfully used in other Cities.



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Alternative Weed Control Options

Novel techniques: Thermal weeding (flame or hot air), foam, steam, and hot water weeding, and vinegar have been trialled in different countries with various degrees of success. Novel techniques may be appropriate in certain situations, but would need to be tested on a case-by-case basis within Dublin City.

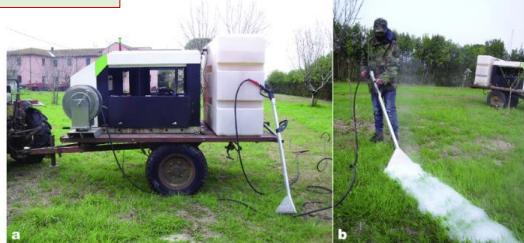


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Hot Foam



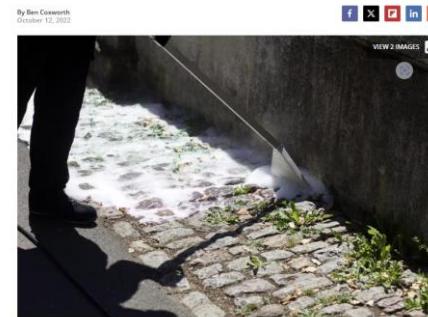
Hot foam machine: (a) lateral view of the machine with the 1000 L water container, the 300 mm wide manual foam hot foam distribution tool, and the covered part containing the foam container, the boiler, the programmable logic controller, the pump and the diesel generator set; (b) hot foam distribution tool and example of a hot foam layer.

- It incorporates a liquid foam made of plant oils and sugars, which is mixed with hot water and sprayed via a hand wand directly onto weeds. The foam then forms a layer of insulation, keeping the heat on the weeds long enough for it to penetrate their leaves' outer surface, then travel down their stems and into their roots – effectively killing them.

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Pictured here being used to kill weeds between cobblestones. Foamstream has recently been trialled on olive groves in Greece. [View 2 images](#)

- Foamstream reduced weed biomass by 81 to 96 percent, as compared to mowing, mulching, pelargonic acid, or no treatment.
- Its performance more or less matched that of glyphosate, which is the sort of eco-unfriendly herbicide it's intended to replace.

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HIMALAYAN BALSAM

Invasive Plants

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- **Economic Cost**
- **Environmental impact**
 - US 50,000 non-native invading species
 - \$26 billion per year since 2010
 - EU €12 billion per annum
 - UK £1.7 billion per annum



Alliaria petiolata

(Garlic mustard) introduced into America as a culinary herb in the 1860's

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>REMEMBER

Basin in the sink

Jug of water in the
fridge

Correct saucepan
size

Bucket and sponge
to wash the car

Toilet cistern bag or
bottle

Dripping taps

Shower time

Aerator
tap/showerhead

TIPS TO AVOID WASTING WATER

Water is essential for all life and it is our responsibility to protect it. The water that comes into our homes is supplied by the Mountain water River, a tributary of the Blackwater River that flows north to Lough Neagh. Below is some advice on how to protect and minimise the use of water in the home:

A basin in the sink

A basin is useful for washing dishes by hand. If you are ever you are to wash fruit and vegetables, this water can then be used for washing plants.

A jug of water in the fridge

Use a jug of water to drink. You can save about 10 litres in a day.

Correct saucepan size

Choose the correct size of saucepan when cooking. Remember to use the lid on a pot or pan to reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation.

Bucket and sponge to wash your car

Using a hose to wash your car uses more water than a bucket. If you only use a bucket, you only use a few litres in a day.

Toilet cistern bag or bottle

This device fits in the water cistern of your toilet and is filled with water causing it to expand and displace volume in the tank. This saves water each time you flush the toilet, less water is used.

Dripping taps

A dripping tap can waste 25 litres of water in one day! Ensure taps are always turned off correctly.

Shower time

An average shower uses approximately 100 litres of water. You can save water by turning off the tap when it is not being used.

Aerator tap/showerhead

An aerator tap or showerhead pumps air into

the water flow, which reduces the amount of water you use for the sink or the shower.

Water butt

A water butt can be positioned to catch the run-off from the roof or gutters of your property and this harvested water can be used for washing your garden or washing the car.

Dual flush

Dual flushing systems for toilets give you the option to use a smaller volume of water.

Rough: Most modern toilets are fitted with a dual flush system, but they can also be retrofitted to an older system.

Washing appliances

Make sure your washing machine and dishwasher are always fully loaded before you turn on the machine to save water and money on energy bills.

Brushing your teeth

It is not necessary to leave the water running while you are brushing your teeth. Turn off the tap when it is not being used.

Watering plants and flowers

Consider using a water butt to collect rainwater in a water butt and use it to water outdoor areas.

Water mains and meter location

The water-saving devices mentioned above are available from DIY stores or garden centres. You can contact a plumber for advice on which services are available for you.

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Quick Tips for Water Conservation

- Fix leaks or drips
- Monitor meter readings – graph
- Install flush/flow control devices
- Green Schools – water saving actions
- Install auto-shut off or push taps
- Rainwater harvesting
- Gardening/planting to conserve water



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Sustainability – Doing More With Less

Rain Planters

A planter fed by rainwater which would normally go into a drain.

- Also known as stormwater planters, bioretention planters, filtration planters.
- 'Disconnect the Downpipes'
- Sealed unit - various options to adapt.
- Rainwater is contained, filtered, slowed.
- Key advantage - unlike rain gardens, rain planters can be positioned close to buildings.
- Outflow can be directed back down the original drain or onwards into the garden.



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