

TAKING ACTION



Activity 1 – The Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals were launched in 2015, as a call to action for all countries around the world to promote prosperity and protect the planet. There are seventeen goals, all with a range of targets and indicators to help give direction and mark progress. The goals focus on ending poverty, tackling climate change and a range of other social issues, whilst ensuring to build economic growth for all. The following activities will help students understand the central importance of water and sanitation to the achievement of the SDGs, and how we can address some of these issues here in Ireland.

Step 1

Split the students into small groups and give out a Trócaire SDG photo pack to each group (Packs are available to download from the action branch of the tree, or to order hard copies contact Stephen.farley@trocaire.org). Ask the students to identify which goals they think are linked to the issue of water. They will identify SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation straight away but encourage them to look for others that are not so obvious.

Step 2

Which goals and targets relate to the different contexts in Malawi, Palestine and Ireland? Looking at SDG 6 in particular, which targets are linked to children?

Step 3

Ireland's progress towards achieving the targets in SDG 6. In groups, set the students the following research tasks on Ireland's progress.

- What agencies and government bodies are involved in the efforts on SDG 6?
- What progress has been made on the different targets?
- What areas do Ireland need to improve in the most?
- Find out more about an example of a project happening around the country linked to this issue.

Activity 2 – Water Audit of your School (Please use appendix one for this activity)

Step 1

In groups, ask the students to complete the audit table for school water use in appendix one. Each group should take an area of the school, then collate all results when all groups have completed their audit. Seek permission from school leadership for this walk through of the school and identify inappropriate areas of the school that should be exempt from this audit.

Step 2

Identify areas where there are issues. Complete the table identifying these issues as a class.

Step 3

Compile a report to be presented to the leadership team in the school for action! Include the following:

- Results of audit
- Identification and severity of problems
- Student proposals to solve issues.
- Proposed action plan
- Key dates
- Proposal to celebrate success.

Once the plan is in place, make arrangements to discuss with school leadership team.

Activity 3: Day of celebration – World Water Day

World Water Day occurs every year on March 22nd. In 2024, this falls on a Friday just before the Easter break. Use this day as a way to celebrate all things water in your school, as well as raising awareness of water justice! The following are just some suggestions as to how you can integrate water issues into your school for the day!



A Pledge Waterfall – Create a waterfall of pledges in a public area in your school. Each water droplet coming down the waterfall can be an individual pledge from a student, staff member, or anybody.



The Water Games – Run a ‘water games’ days (weather permitting).



Everybody come into school dressed in blue for World Water Day (could also be used as a fundraiser).



Organise a clean up of a local river, stream or beach.



Organise a water justice awareness walk to show how far people have to walk for water each day.



Awareness raising campaign around the school using posters for world water day (could be run as a competition for younger students).



Run a competition for students to create board games based on water and enter our Game Changers competition.

[\(https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/educate/game-changers/\)](https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/educate/game-changers/)



Run a competition for older students to create short documentaries on water justice issues, and enter our The Right Focus competition

[\(https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/educate/the-right-focus/\)](https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/educate/the-right-focus/)

Appendix 1

Water devices	Number of devices	How many are working efficiently?	How many are broken, and where are they?	How many are dripping and where?
Urinals				
Toilets				
Taps (internal)				
Taps (external)				
Radiators/heaters				
Showers				
Others				
Total				

Water issues

Description of issue	Location of issue in school	Severity of issue 1-5 (1 being not urgent, 5 being extremely urgent)	Proposed action to take

