



WATER CONSERVATION ACTIONS



INTRODUCTION

Water is one of football's most important resources. From showers and toilets to kitchens, pitch maintenance and cleaning, every Club relies on water to operate. By using water more efficiently, Clubs can reduce costs, lower their environmental impact and help protect Wales' rivers, lakes, wetlands and drinking water supplies.

Many water conservation measures are simple, low-cost, and quick to implement, while others can be incorporated into future facility improvements and infrastructure projects.

This resource will help your Club to:

- Reduce water consumption across Club facilities.
- Lower utility bills and operating costs.
- Identify and prevent water losses.
- Improve water efficiency in clubhouses and grounds.
- Protect local water resources and ecosystems.
- Support the Together Greener sustainability journey.





BENEFITS

Why is water conservation important?

Water conservation delivers much more than lower water bills. By reducing water use and preventing waste, football Clubs can save money, improve operational efficiency, protect local water resources and demonstrate leadership.

The actions in this resource can help Clubs achieve environmental, financial and community benefits while supporting the long-term sustainability of football in Wales.

Benefits include:

- Lower water and wastewater bills.
- Reduced energy costs associated with heating water for showers, kitchens and changing facilities.
- Lower maintenance costs through early identification of leaks and faults.
- Reduced risk of costly emergency repairs caused by burst pipes or water damage.
- More efficient use of Club budgets, freeing up funds for football development and facilities improvements.

By reducing water waste and improving efficiency, Clubs can lower their environmental footprint, improve resilience and help create a more sustainable future for football in Wales.

Every drop counts. Simple actions such as fixing leaks, reducing shower times and collecting rainwater can save money, conserve water and make a lasting difference.



GETTING STARTED

Before implementing water conservation measures, Clubs should understand how and where water is used.

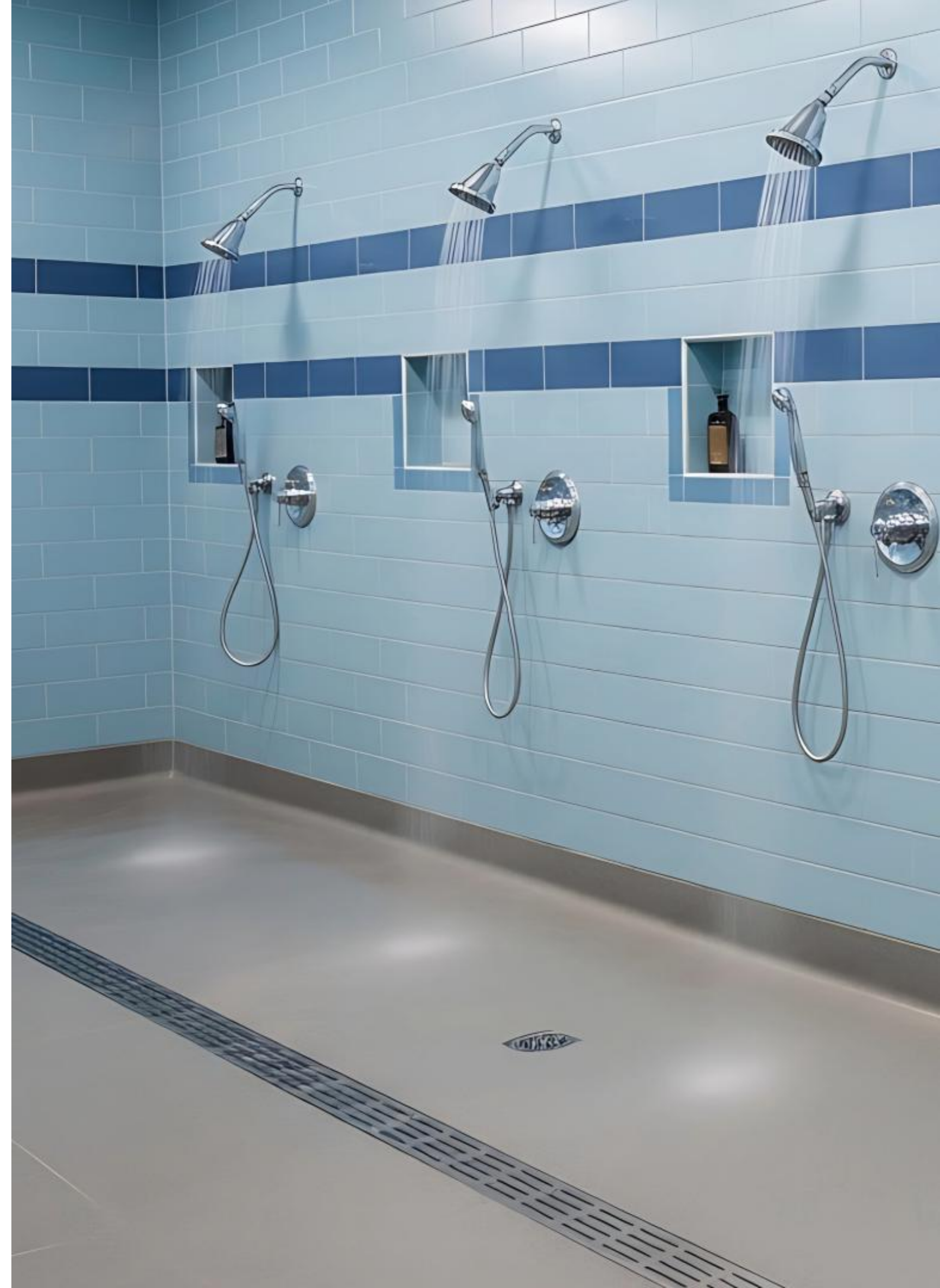
To identify priority areas for action, use the findings from your:

- [Water Conservation Audit.](#)
- [Water Quality Audit.](#)
- [Water Meter Reading.](#)

For most Clubs, the biggest opportunities are often found in:

- Toilets and urinals.
- Showers and changing rooms.
- Kitchens and bars.
- Cleaning activities.
- Outdoor taps and irrigation.
- Hidden leaks.

Start with the easiest and lowest-cost actions before progressing to larger projects.





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LEAKS

Find and Fix Leaks

The cheapest water-saving measure is often fixing water that is already being wasted.

Leaks can occur in:

- Taps.
- Toilets.
- Urinals.
- Outdoor pipework.
- Water tanks.
- Underground supply pipes.

Top Tips

- Include leak inspections within routine maintenance checks.
- Monitor water meter readings regularly.
- Investigate unexpected increases in water use.
- Encourage members to report leaks immediately.
- Check outdoor taps after winter periods for frost damage.

Even a small dripping tap can waste thousands of litres of water annually.





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MAINTENANCE CHECKS

Create a Water Maintenance Schedule

A planned approach helps prevent small issues from becoming costly problems.

Top Tips

Include regular checks of:

- Taps and toilets.
- Showers.
- Pipework.
- Water tanks.
- Outdoor taps.
- Irrigation systems.
- Rainwater harvesting systems.

Assign responsibility to a nominated volunteer, facility manager or maintenance contractor.





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PIPE PROTECTION

Protect Pipes During Winter

Frozen pipes can burst and cause significant water loss and damage.

Top Tips

- Insulate exposed pipework.
- Protect outdoor taps.
- Check vulnerable areas before winter.
- Ensure vacant buildings are monitored during cold weather.



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TAPS

Install Water Efficient Taps

Older taps often use significantly more water than necessary.

Top Tips

Consider:

- Push-button self-closing taps.
- Sensor-operated taps.
- Tap aerators.
- Flow restrictors.

Aerators can often reduce water use by 30% to 50% without affecting user experience.





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TOILETS

Upgrade Toilets and Urinals

Toilets are often one of the largest water users in Club facilities.

Top Tips

- Install dual flush toilets.
- Fit cistern displacement devices.
- Repair leaking flush mechanisms.
- Install urinal controls or sensors.
- Ensure urinals are not flushing when facilities are closed.

A leaking toilet can waste hundreds of litres every day.



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SHOWERS

Improve Shower Efficiency

Showers can account for a significant proportion of water consumption, particularly at larger Clubs.

Top Tips

- Install low-flow shower heads.
- Fit flow restrictors.
- Encourage shorter showers.
- Display water awareness signage.
- Monitor shower usage during busy periods.





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SHOWER CHALLENGE

Launch a Five-Minute Shower Challenge

Simple behaviour change can deliver significant savings.

Top Tips

Encourage players and members to:

- Keep showers under five minutes.
- Turn off the water while applying shampoo or soap.
- Be mindful of water use after training and matches.

Small changes across hundreds of users can create substantial savings over a season.



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CATERING

Improve Water Efficiency In Kitchens, Bars And Catering Areas

Use Appliances Efficiently

Commercial kitchens can be major water users.

Top Tips

- Only run dishwashers when full.
- Maintain appliances regularly.
- Repair leaks quickly.
- Choose water efficient equipment when replacing appliances.

Modern appliances often use significantly less water than older models.





CLEANING

Review Cleaning Procedures

Cleaning is essential but often uses more water than necessary.

Top Tips

- Use buckets rather than continuously running hoses.
- Use trigger nozzles on hoses.
- Train cleaning staff and volunteers on efficient water use.
- Avoid excessive water use when washing external surfaces.





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RAINWATER

Install Water Butts

Rainwater harvesting is one of the easiest ways for Clubs to reduce mains water consumption.

Top Tips

Connect water butts to:

- Clubhouse gutters.
- Storage sheds.
- Maintenance buildings.
- Collected rainwater can be used for:
- Watering plants.
- Biodiversity areas.
- Community gardens.
- Cleaning equipment where appropriate.





HARVESTING SYSTEM

Consider Larger Rainwater Harvesting Systems

Clubs undertaking facility upgrades may wish to explore larger systems.

Top Tips

Rainwater can potentially be used for:

- Toilet flushing.
- Pitch maintenance.
- Cleaning operations.
- Landscape irrigation.

Consider including these systems in future capital projects.



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RAINWATER

Water Smart Grounds Management

Water Plants Efficiently

Plants often require less water than people think.

Top Tips

- Water early morning or evening.
- Target roots rather than leaves.
- Use watering cans where practical.
- Mulch planting areas to retain moisture.
- Select drought tolerant native species.





AWARENESS

Raise Awareness

Communicate Water Saving Messages

Awareness campaigns can help embed positive behaviours.

Top Tips:

Use:

- Posters in toilets and changing rooms.
- Club newsletters.
- Social media channels.
- Team communications.
- Matchday announcements.

Focus on simple messages that explain how members can help.



FURTHER SUPPORT

Every Club can take meaningful action to reduce water consumption. Many of the most effective measures are simple, affordable and can be implemented immediately.

By combining efficient facilities, good maintenance and positive behaviour change, Clubs can save money, protect valuable water resources and contribute to a more sustainable future for Welsh football.

Use what you have learned in this resource to:

- Identify opportunities to reduce water use.
- Fix leaks and prevent water losses.
- Improve efficiency in clubhouses and grounds.
- Introduce rainwater harvesting and reuse.
- Engage members in water conservation.
- Build a practical water action plan through Together Greener.

Further information on Water can be found at www.faw.cymru/togethergreener-water

If you require support completing this resource, please contact sustainability@faw.cymru