

Milton of Campsie Parish Church of Scotland

Stirling Hall Eco Project - TOP TIPS on Reducing your Water Carbon Footprint

Pull the plug on water and save money!

We use water every day
without thinking about it.

We live on an island that has a lot of rainfall throughout the year, so you could be mistaken in thinking that water is not an issue... but it is!

There are over 5 million of us in Scotland and on the average we use 150 litres of water every day. Around one fifth of the water we use is simply flushed down the toilet. The water company has to use energy to supply mains water to our homes. We then use energy heating it up for baths, shower and washing up. If we use water more efficiently, our supplies would go much further and we would use less energy.

The heating of water used in our everyday life produces carbon dioxide (CO₂); by wasting less you'll be reducing your home CO₂ emissions and helping climate change.

Around 24% of average household's heating bills are spent on heating water- that is around **£150** a year. The cost could be higher if you use electric immersion heater.

You could make considerable savings on your energy bills by trying to make sure that you do not waste hot water.

So what can you do?

By adjusting your everyday behaviour you can start to save water, energy and money now. Start saving today by

Snub the tub

Opt for short, refreshing showers on daily basis and keep baths to a minimum. If everybody in your family of four replaces one bath a week with five minute showers, you can save **£15** a year on gas bills.

Fill 'em up!

Make sure that dishwashers and washing machines are full before you used them, and always use the most efficient water and energy settings. When it is time to replace your appliance, look for the Energy Saving Recommended logo: product with this logo save both water and energy.

Suds law

Using sink of water to wash up twice a day rather than having the hot tap running could save around **£35** a year on your gas bill. If you need to rinse utensils or wash vegetables, use cold water if possible and don't leave the tap running.

Go off the boil

Only boil as much water as you need to avoid unnecessarily heating water you won't even use!

Turn it off

A running tap uses around **six litres** of water a minute so turn off the tap whilst brushing your teeth, shaving or washing your face and use cold water where you do not need hot water

Don't be a drip

A dripping tap wastes over **5,500 litres** of water a year so make sure your taps are properly turn off and change washers when the tap start dripping.

Get your butt in gear

Your roof collects enough water to fill **450** water butts every year. Invest in water butt and use this to water your garden, houseplants and wash your car. Rainwater is better for plants than tap water as it is softer

Become a fan of the can

Your hosepipe can use as much water in an hour as a family of four in a day, so get back to basics and swap your hose for watering can filled with water from your water butt when watering your garden!

Bucket the trend

Avoid jet washes and energy wasting auto car washes. Use water from your water butt to was to your car using a good old bucket and sponge.