

# Turn off that Tap!

**Scouts make a plan for conserving water in their own home. The plan can be as simple as changing one single habit.**

**Section:** All  
**Time:** 1 hour  
**Where:** Home, Den



## PLAN

Scouts, through their connection with nature, probably already have a good feel for the vital importance of water to humanity and every ecosystem on earth. They will already be aware of the challenges people face in some parts of the world with access to clean water, but they may not pay as much attention to the unnecessary use of water in their own homes.

This activity is about getting the scouts to identify one, two or three ways in which water usage can be reduced in their own home, making a plan for how to do this, and then implementing their plan.

Discuss this with the scouts and get them to share their ideas before they each look at their own household. Focus on the act of saving water, regardless of the volume. If a scout makes a change in their household which only saves a cup of water a day, but they have become more aware of the issue, then the activity has been successful! They will do more in the future, when the time is right. You know your scouts, so help them to set an appropriate goal for themselves as to how many targets they will set – one, two or three.

## DO

From their discussions, scouts should be starting off with a number of ideas. They can find more ideas online or from friends. They could also start off by just checking through their home and noting down all of the appliances which use water, and all of the other times in the day when the tap is turned on for some reason.

Here are a few suggestions of the type of thing which they could focus on:

- Washing machines
- Dishwashers/Dishwashing
- Baths
- Tooth-brushing
- Watering indoor plants
- Dripping or not-turned-off-properly taps
- Toilet flushing

After choosing what to change, they then figure how best to do it. Getting family members to change habits might mean explaining to them why it is important to avoid wasting water. Putting up colourful and positive signs could act as a gentle reminder.

## REVIEW

Once the scouts have had time to set up their new water-saving-habits at home, bring them together again to discuss. How did they choose which issues to tackle? What was the response from their family? What did they learn from the process? In wrapping it up, bring the discussion back around to people their age in other countries who might not have the same access to water. They might have to travel a distance to get water, or only have access to dirty water with no way to make it safe.



### Find out more!

Visit - [www.betterworld.ie](http://www.betterworld.ie)

Contact us - [sustainability@scouts.ie](mailto:sustainability@scouts.ie)

Produced by the Scouting Ireland Sustainable Scouting Team



### In a nutshell...

- Scouts choose to find one, two or three ways to reduce water usage in their homes.
- They figure how to do this, and get their household on board through discussions and maybe little signs.
- Coming back together, the scouts discuss the changes they made.



### Follow-on

If the scouts were successful in this round of changes to their water usage, maybe they could challenge themselves to take it further. This could mean trying out some of the more difficult issues at home, or maybe looking at the den or their school. They could use the Household Water Audit activity to take a full look at the way they use water in their house and measure it, before making a plan on how to manage it. Another option is that they would take the same approach to look at things like electricity, plastic or waste generation.



### SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation

SDG 6 aims to substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity. This activity can help scouts to develop better habits towards water usage, recognising it as a scarce and valuable resource.