

WATER SMART Schools

A number of school related programs to educate students about the value of water and to encourage schools to adopt efficient water use as a long-term policy are currently in place throughout Sydney.

Along with the Every Drop Counts in Schools Program and the Rainwater Tanks in Schools Program, Sydney Water is working closely with the Department of Education and Training to review the overall framework for water education that will help develop future 'water responsible' citizens.

Every Drop Counts in Schools Program

Developed in conjunction with the NSW Department of Education and Training, the Every Drop Counts in Schools Program targets reducing water use in primary schools by increasing the awareness of water conservation.

This occurs through a series of curriculum-based lessons, involving students in a water audit and development of a water saving plan for the school. This EDC in Schools Program was developed in response to findings that on average, schools could reduce water usage by up to 50%.

A total of 113 schools have now completed the program since its launch, delivering estimated savings of 181 million litres a year.

Rainwater Tanks in Schools Program

To help raise awareness among school students of the value of water and the importance of saving water for the future, the Rainwater Tanks in Schools Rebate Program was introduced in April 2004.

The program encourages public and private schools connected to Sydney Water supply mains to install a minimum 10,000 litre rainwater tank and receive a rebate of up to \$2,500. Small schools may install smaller rainwater tanks and qualify to receive a rebate if certain other conditions are met.

By the end of April 2006, payments have already been made or are approved to 115 schools, and an increasing number of schools are submitting applications each month. Total savings for the Program are estimated at 20 million litres a year by 2015.

For more information visit waterforlife.nsw.gov.au