

# Year 5 to 8 sustainability

## Reading your water meter to detect leaks

**Australian Curriculum links:**  
**Sustainability cross-curriculum priority**

In this activity, students learn how to read a water meter to detect water leaks in their house.

### Preparation

Check with your local council or water service provider to confirm that the houses in your area have water meters.

### Equipment

For each student

- one copy of [Detecting leaks and reading your water meter](#) fact sheet
- optional: one copy of the [Home waterwise quiz](#)

### Activity steps

1. Hand out the 'Detecting leaks and reading your water meter' fact sheet to students. Discuss the facts listed in the 'Did you know?' text box. Ask students to predict what they think are the leaks that cause the greatest water wastage in your community. As a class, you could contact your local Council or water service provider to find the answer to that question.
2. Explain that students and their parents or carers can check if there is a water leak at home by reading their water meter. Display the factsheet on a screen or electronic whiteboard and work through the instructions: pausing and asking questions occasionally to check that everyone understands.
3. Suggest that students and the parents or carers check their home for leaks and report their experiences to the class.

Optional: Students can complete the 'Home waterwise quiz' with the help of their family. Set a time limit on the home activity (i.e. one or two days).

4. After the designated time period, ask students to share their results with the class.

