

# WATER AUDIT

Using a map of the site, students indicate where there are specific water-related elements on campus. They continue the process by showing the direction water takes and identifying any areas of concern. Finally, students conduct an interview with the Facilities/Plant Manager to learn more.

## Procedure

1. Plan to divide into working groups when mapping and auditing the site.
2. Create a map of the site doing the following:
  - Use an existing map, removing any unnecessary information.
  - Download a map of the site from on-line.
  - Create your own map using a large sheet of paper.
3. Make sure each group has a map, Water Audit Guidelines sheet, and specific colored pencils or markers.
4. Have students follow the instructions to locate specific water-related elements and mark them on the map. Then, continue the process by using arrows to show the direction water takes and identifying any areas of concern.
5. Familiarize students with the areas they are observing and demonstrate how to gather the data, if necessary.
6. Back in the classroom, have groups report on their findings.
7. Create a combined map of all that was found, representing the site as a whole.
8. Have students conduct an interview with the campus Facilities/Plant Manager using the Interview Questionnaire.

## Materials

- Water Audit Guidelines (page 11)
- Colored Pencils/Markers (red, blue, green, purple, black) - 1 per group
- Map of site
- Interview Questionnaire (page 12)

## Helpful Hints

- Break the site maps into different parts of the campus for each group.
- If possible, plan to conduct the audit during a rain event, when irrigation is being used, or suggest using buckets of water to see and understand the flow of water across the site.

# Water Audit Guidelines

Walk around the entire assigned area looking for the items listed below and mark them on the map:

## LOOK FOR:

- Places where water can get into the ground (grass, bare dirt, garden, etc.)

Use **GREEN** to show these places on your map

- Sources of water (faucets, drinking fountains, sprinkler, hose, etc.)

Use **BLUE** to show these places on your map →



- Places where water travels (gutters, down spout, drain, etc.)

Use **PURPLE** to show these places on your map →



- Trash and other things that could be harmful to water (food, trash, oil, etc.)

Use a **RED X** to show these items on your map

## ALSO INDICATE:

- The direction water would travel. Use arrows to show the direction. Remember, water flows from higher points to low ones.
- Leaky water faucets or sprinklers.
- Where you found a lot of trash and other areas of concern.
- What type of trash was found and a possible source for where it came from.