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Physical Resource Planning and Property Management Minute: 0001/2022

To: Deputy Director-General: Education Planning, Deputy Director-General: Institution Development and Coordination, Chief Director: Districts, Directors of Education at district offices, Circuit Managers, Principals of all public schools, art centres, music centres, and museum schools

Subject: Water saving initiatives at all public schools

1. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) places a high priority on the efficient consumption of water as part of broader sustainability initiatives and is urging all principals and governing bodies across the Western Cape to continue efforts to manage and reduce water usage at schools.
2. A very successful pilot project of water metering at 350 schools in the Western Cape has already resulted in millions of litres of water being saved.
3. To achieve a water secure future, behaviour change that leads to significantly lower water usage and costs has become a necessity. To support this endeavour, the WCED will assist schools by providing financial subsidies to cover the costs to install water metering devices and support online reporting services that will provide information on water consumption patterns at the school. The water monitoring devices will detect high flow rates or events that otherwise go undetected easily, such as pipe bursts and leaks, and it will, subsequently, generate notifications for possible resolutions.
4. The WCED subsidy will cover the installation costs for the water monitoring devices (capped) per school and the monthly service fees (capped and renewable annually, subject to conditions met), for an agreed period. Schools will be required to enter directly into a service contract with a water metering supplier that is able to meet certain technical conditions.

5. To access the subsidy please indicate your interest in the subsidy by sending an email to waterislife@westerncape.gov.za who will initiate a check on whether your school meets the required technical conditions.

SIGNED: MS ABRAHAMS

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: EDUCATION PLANNING

DATE: 2022-09-13