



AlertAQ™ SAVES SCHOOL BOARD \$10,000 EACH YEAR

Jessica Kukac is the Environmental & Energy Systems Coordinator with the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). She oversees utility costs and monitors consumption of electricity, water, and natural gas for over 120 schools and public buildings, across 16 different municipalities.

After installing Alert Labs water intelligence solutions at one of the schools she oversees, she discovered a urinal and faucet were leaking. The plumbing fixtures were repaired and the amount of money saved in wasted water is estimated to be in the thousands of dollars for a single school. She recommends Alert Labs solutions for any public sector building.

“The money goes against our budget and allows us to create opportunities for energy savings on utilities, including water. It allows us to provide more environmental stewardship programs for our students.”

“Without real time data, fixing water leaks is a guessing game. Relying on monthly or quarterly billing data is not conducive to conservation.”



Jessica Kukac, Environmental & Energy Systems Coordinator, Simcoe County District School Board holds the Flowie water flow sensor in front of Nantyr Shores Secondary School

Rising costs of water

Water costs are taking up more and more of the budgets for schools and businesses. “For the first time ever, our water budget is approaching our natural gas budget,” Jessica says. The SCDSB was looking for a better system to monitor water consumption and keep costs low.

High water bill alerts

Jessica would receive letters from the municipal utilities to let her know that water consumption at one of the schools was higher than normal and that she should expect a higher bill. Even if her team was able to identify and fix the source of the high water use, the school board was still responsible for paying for the wasted water.

BAS too expensive

The large up front cost of installing a Building Automation System (BAS) and the compatibility of the existing water meters were the main reasons for not adopting BAS. “To be able to get a new server and to store that data would be very expensive and the software solution that comes with AlertAQ is so much more affordable and so much more robust,” Jessica said. The AlertAQ platform gives Jessica insight into real-time water use at a fraction of the cost of leading alternatives.

Easy to deploy water flow sensor

Jessica installed Alert Labs solutions at various elementary and secondary schools across the County. She also has plans to install water sensors in administrative buildings and maintenance shops. She commented on how easy it was to create accounts, verify flow rates and calibrate the smart water flow sensor's water meter readings.

“The registration process is very simple. I can do it on my cell phone.”

Significant savings after leak detected

On the same day the water sensors were installed at Brechin Public School, the AlertAQ platform sent Jessica an alert telling her that water was running 100% of the day. As a school building that should be unoccupied in the evening, this pattern of water usage was unusual. With the help of the real-time water use data visible on the platform, Jessica was able to identify the source of the constant water usage. “When taking a closer look at the graphs in the AlertAQ platform we were able to see that there were actually 2 time frames of water that were being used,” she says.

Jessica analyzed the amount of water usage per minute and recognized that the most likely source of the water use was a leaking urinal and leaking faucet. She told the maintenance staff about her discovery, which made repairing the leaking fixtures much faster. Because SCDSB did not track water use in real-time before installing Alert Labs solutions, Jessica does not know how long these leaks had been occurring. Regardless of the exact duration of the leak, Jessica is certain that Brechin Public School has made significant savings on their water bills.



Water use data from the AlertAQ water intelligence platform shows the leaky urinal and running faucet.

“Fixing these leaks at one school likely saved us thousands of dollars. We have almost 120 buildings.”

Jessica told Alert Labs that the savings on water costs are significant for the Simcoe County District School Board:

One platform to manage water consumption at properties in multiple cities

Another challenge for an Environmental & Energy Systems Coordinator is monitoring water use at different buildings that have different billing cycles and are located in 16 different municipalities. Jessica stated that Alert Labs solutions are affordable enough to put into every building even if that building may not currently have an issue with high water use. She also described how having one platform for all buildings gives her greater insight.

Educational, residential & commercial buildings

Alert Labs solutions are helping school boards across North America make significant savings on water costs. In addition to school boards, Alert Labs sensors have been installed at commercial real estate, college campuses, condos, apartments, industrial buildings and more to help reduce bills and prevent damage.

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