

Water

CREATED BY YOUR STUDENT
SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION
COORDINATORS

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LINKS

www.lib.berkeley.edu/WRCA

www.ebmud.com

www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/default

www.epa.gov/water

www.wef.org

www.unesco.org/water

www.thewaterpage.com

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Water is one of the most important substances known to mankind. It is used for consumption, cooking, cleaning, agriculture and recreation. It permeates all aspects of our everyday life. We depend on the availability of clean water for our health and our comfort.

At first glance, it appears that Earth is covered in water and we have no need to worry about ever running out. But in reality, only three percent of the water on Earth is freshwater and one percent is available for human use.

A majority of the water use occurs in agriculture—watering crops, raising livestock, watering the crops

that feed the livestock, and all the processes involved in the processing of food.

Earth's freshwater is rapidly being used up, and the possibility of water rationing is looming closer and closer. By taking preventive action now, we can prevent this from happening and ensure a comfortable future.



SOME QUICK FACTS:

- *If all the world's water were fit into a gallon jug, the percentage of fresh water available for us to use would equal only about one tablespoon.*
- *On the average, a person uses 2 gallons of water to brush his or her teeth each day.*
- *On the average, each American uses about 160 gallons of water a day at a cost of 27 cents.*
- *The United States consumes water at twice the rate of other industrialized nations.*
- *About 6,800 gallons of water is required to grow a day's food for a family of four.*
- *About 39,090 gallons of water is needed to make an automobile, tires included*
- *By 2025 two-thirds of the world's people will be facing water stress. The global demand for water will have grown by over 40% by then.*

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Take a shorter shower everyday. Use a low-flow shower head if possible. You'll be amazed at what a difference it makes in the long run—and it saves energy too!
- Don't leave the water running when you brush your teeth or shave.



- Wash full loads of laundry, not half loads. You use the same amount of water, but get more out of it

(plus, you'll need to do laundry less often!).

- Identify and repair any leaks. That steady (and often maddening) drip adds up to a lot of wasted water (up to 190 gallons a month!).
- Spread the word about the importance of water conservation.
- Thaw food in the refrigerator, not under running water.
- Water plants when the temperature is cool and the air is still to prevent the water from evaporating and negating your efforts. Dawn is best, but late evening is also good.



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