OneUpAction International

Healing the Earth one action at a time.

GLOBAL WATER CRISIS

History, tips, and living sustainably!

WATER CRISIS GUIDE & DIRECT ACTIONS INFORMATION// A GUIDEBOOK

05

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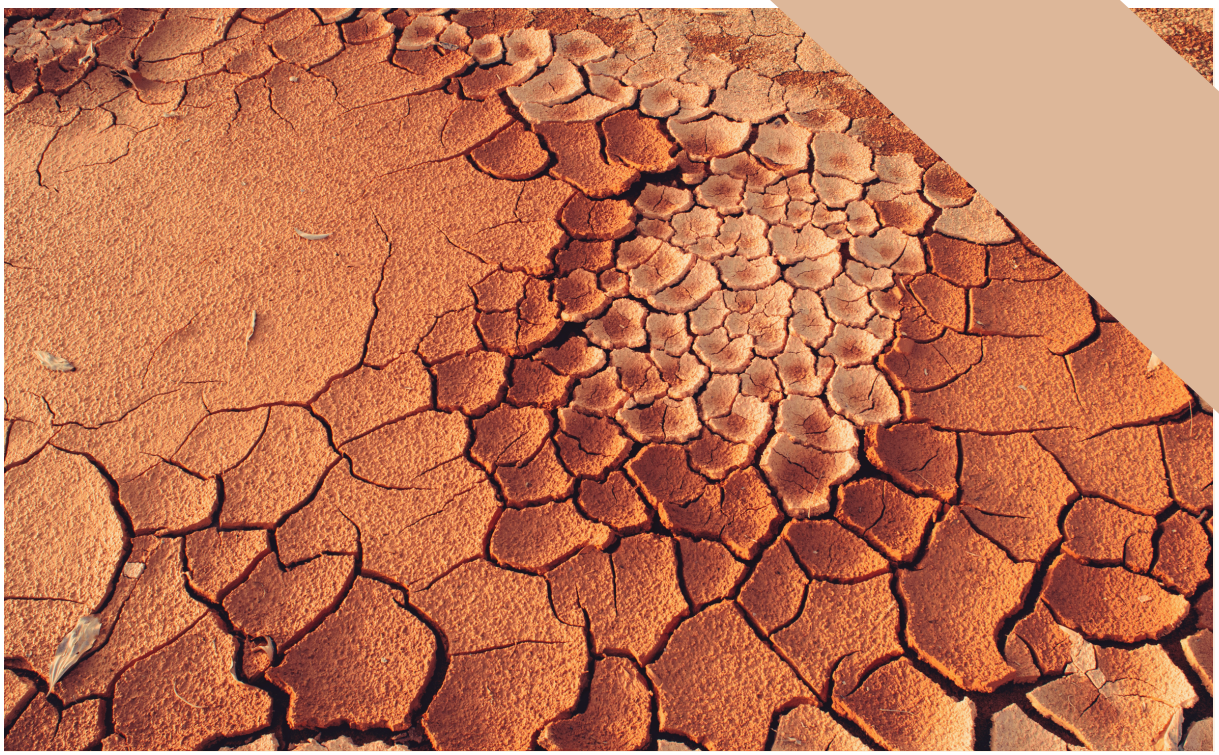
(Guidebook designed by Sana Fathima)

BACKGROUND



(Polina Tankilevitch, 2020)

wa·ter cri·sis

/ˈwɸdər krīsis/

Global access to usable, drinkable water is undeniably diminishing, even in capitalistic, industrial countries like the United States, which we consider to be developed.

It is predicted that as soon as the year 2025, more than half of the world's nations will be faced with water insecurity, and rise to 75% by 2050. Lack of access to clean water is a result of increased human activity such as agriculture, irrigation, and industry, which additionally deposits polluted water into otherwise safe waterways.

Climate change is another factor that has worsened the global water crisis as rainfall patterns become irregular and water accessibility becomes less predictable. A lack of access to clean water impedes on other areas of life as well, such as education, socio-economic status, and of course overall health.

(Water.org)

INTERSECTIONALITY OF THE WATER CRISIS

In 2002, Richard Anthony found himself on the scientific committee for a series of Resource conferences (called the R-series) organized by EMPA. When reviewing papers submitted for an upcoming conference to be held in Geneva (R-02), he found far too many papers devoted to incineration and not enough tackling the issue at the front end. The director asked Richard what he would like to see instead and he said a workshop devoted to Zero Waste. Richard proposed that if EMPA could sponsor accommodation and waived registration fees, he would put a team of experts together and get them to Geneva.

(Krizjohn Rosales, 2017; Amager Resource Center)

With this agreement, Richard then had to find the funds to get them all to Switzerland. When he approached Dr. Bill Sheehan, Director of the Grassroots Recycling Network (GRRN), Bill said that he would help under the condition that this action was going to be more than an academic exercise, insisting that they found a way to help community groups working on waste at the grass roots level. With the help of some activist groups in the UK (Greenpeace, Communities Against Toxics) they managed to set up a forum at Sussex University, in Brighton, Sussex to take place two days after the R-02 meeting in Geneva.

After the Geneva conference, most of the Zero Waste team traveled to the UK for the Brighton conference. This meeting attracted many grass roots activists fighting incinerators and landfills and others promoting recycling. Moreover, once the news got around, it attracted many decision makers from towns and counties from across the UK struggling with the waste issue. Over 100 people attended a very successful conference. ZIWA sets guidelines and standards to help the development of zero waste in the world of governments, waste management teams, and businesses. The rest is history!

DIRECT ACTIONS

(Samad Deldar, 2016)

DEMONSTRATIONS

If you are able to do so, attend protests that are taking place in the area where you live. This might mean protesting against harmful factories or pipelines that are already polluting or will be harmful to the water where people live.

Contact your local politicians as well as your federal legislators to advocate for any local or federal legislation that aims to protect clean and safe water.

Further advocate for water justice. Educate yourself about the inherent intersectionality of access to clean, usable water, and how it affects education, poverty, and women and girls.

(STEVE CARMODY, 2017)

WRITE LETTERS

(Ivan Samkov, 2020)

You can even contact international leaders and activists to show your support for water justice.

Rallying together a group of friends or organizing within your school/community to come together and write to your local governors, political leaders and other bodies to take action shows that citizens care - and that's the first step to bringing change.

MINDFULLNESS

Start to become more aware of your water consumption. If you are looking to be more efficient in the water you are consuming or try to use less, the first step is to actively notice how much you are using now. Once you have done that, then you can create steps for yourself to reduce your water consumption.

(Ketet Subiyanto, 2020)

Actions that have a direct effect on your water footprint: taking shorter showers, installing a water-saving shower head or toilet, or washing your clothes less often and with cold water. Actions to reduce your indirect water footprint: eating less or no meat, consuming more locally grown food, or drinking tea instead of coffee.

(MoriMa Tea, 2020)

Resources

1. Get Low Flow High Efficiency Faucet Aerators.

A low-flow, high-efficiency faucet aerator lowers the fixture's water usage by about four percent. A standard faucet may be responsible for up to 15 percent of household water use. Making the switch could help you save more than 500 gallons of water every year.

To install a low-flow, high-efficiency faucet aerator, unscrew the current aerator and screw on the new device internally or as an external attachment. The old aerator can be recycled.

2. Try Low Flow Water Efficient Showerheads.

Standard showerheads use 2.5 gallons of water per minute, meaning that a typical shower uses about 11 gallons of water. You can purchase a low-flow showerhead that uses 1.5 gallons per minute or less. A low-flow showerhead is installed by simply unscrewing the old head and screwing on the new one. If there is any rust or buildup on the pipe, remove it with some diluted white vinegar before screwing on the new head. In a home with four people who shower daily, you could save up to 2,000 gallons of water every year.

3. Get Automatic Shut-Off Nozzles.

An automatic shutoff nozzle rests between the pipe and the showerhead. To operate it, simply turn the valve with your thumb. You would do this after wetting your hair. The water would be off while you do the shampooing and soap your body. You would then flip the switch back when you are ready to rinse. The temperature of the water is the same once the switch is flipped back on. You can also screw one of these devices onto your outside water tap for your garden hose.

4. Try Using Shower Timers.

Shower timers use smart technology to measure the amount of water that each person uses in the shower. The device then warns you if you are taking too long in the shower. These devices can be easily installed onto the shower's pipe.

5. Use Dual Flush Toilet Converters.

Toilets are the biggest consumer of water in the home, using about 30 percent of the household's water. A dual-flush toilet releases about 0.5 gallons of water for urine and the standard 1.5 gallons for solid waste. To install a dual-flush converter, turn off the water supply to the toilet and drain the water out of the tank. Unscrew the old flush valve and pull out the old mechanism. Install the new mechanism and restore the water supply to the toilet.

6. Tank Bags

Tank bags are a simple solution for reducing the amount of water used with every flush. You can buy special inflatable devices that take up some of the space in the toilet's tank. Alternatively, you can use a plastic bottle filled with water or even place a brick or two in the tank. This will help displace some water, saving a little on each flush. You do not have to remember to press different buttons or change your habits to save water with a tank bag.

7. Soaker Hoses

If you have a lawn or an outdoor garden, you probably want it to be vibrant and lush. Soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems release the water slowly and directly onto the plant's roots. This helps to reduce runoff and evaporation. The hoses can also be set to a timer; watering after dark is usually a good way to minimize evaporation. Using these watering devices for your yard could cut outdoor water use by up to 50 percent.

8. Grey Water Diverters

An automatic shutoff nozzle rests between the pipe and the showerhead. To operate it, simply turn the valve with your thumb. You would do this after wetting your hair. The water would be off while you do the shampooing and soap your body. You would then flip the switch back when you are ready to rinse. The temperature of the water is the same once the switch is flipped back on. You can also screw one of these devices onto your outside water tap for your garden hose.

Resources

9. Rainwater Tanks

A rainwater tank or rain barrel stores rain that drains off of the roof and into the gutters. You can use this water for your lawn and flowerbeds. To install a rain barrel, you will need to remove the existing downspout and connect rubber hosing to the opening of the gutter. The other end of the hose is inserted in an opening in the lid of the collection device. You could also make your own rain barrel out of food-grade plastic.

10. Rain Shut Off Devices

A rainfall shutoff device connects to your sprinkler system and shuts it off when there is moisture on the soil from a recent or current rain shower. Rainfall shutoff devices are relatively inexpensive, costing between $25-$100, and easy to install. An even better water-saving system is a weather-based irrigation controller—but to install one is a more challenging DIY task.

Saving water is easy to do when you automate the process. These inexpensive, time and money-saving devices could cut your water bills by up to 50 percent. You will steward the limited natural resources of the Earth and also save some money.

(Burst, 2017)

5 Reasons to Eat Local, Seasonal Food

1. It will reduce your environmental impact

Food that has traveled across the world to get to your plate has a much higher impact on our environment. More energy is needed to transport, refrigerate and store it and often, more packaging is needed to keep it fresh. By eating local, seasonal foods you can help reduce the environmental costs associated with your food.

2. You can eat better food for less

Local produce is more likely to be ripened on the farm before being harvested and delivered. This food is fresher, tastes better and is more nutritious. Although local food can be more expensive, buying in season means you're getting it at peak supply when it's at its cheapest.

3. It supports your local community

When you buy locally produced food, the money you spend stays in the respective regions where the food was grown to support the region's farmers and communities.

4. It's easier to know what you're getting

Our globalized food system gives us great choice and convenience when it comes to our food. However, increasing the distance between where food is grown and processed makes it harder to get information about how it has been produced. The easiest way to know your food is to know where it comes from.

5. You can help stop food waste

The longer food spends in storage and transit, the higher the chance of it spoiling and becoming waste. More than half of all food waste occurs along the supply chain. Buying locally and in season can help reduce the risk of food becoming waste before it gets to the shelves.

(Wendy Wei, 2017)

IMPORTANCE OF WATER CONSERVATION

(Spencer Davis, 2020)

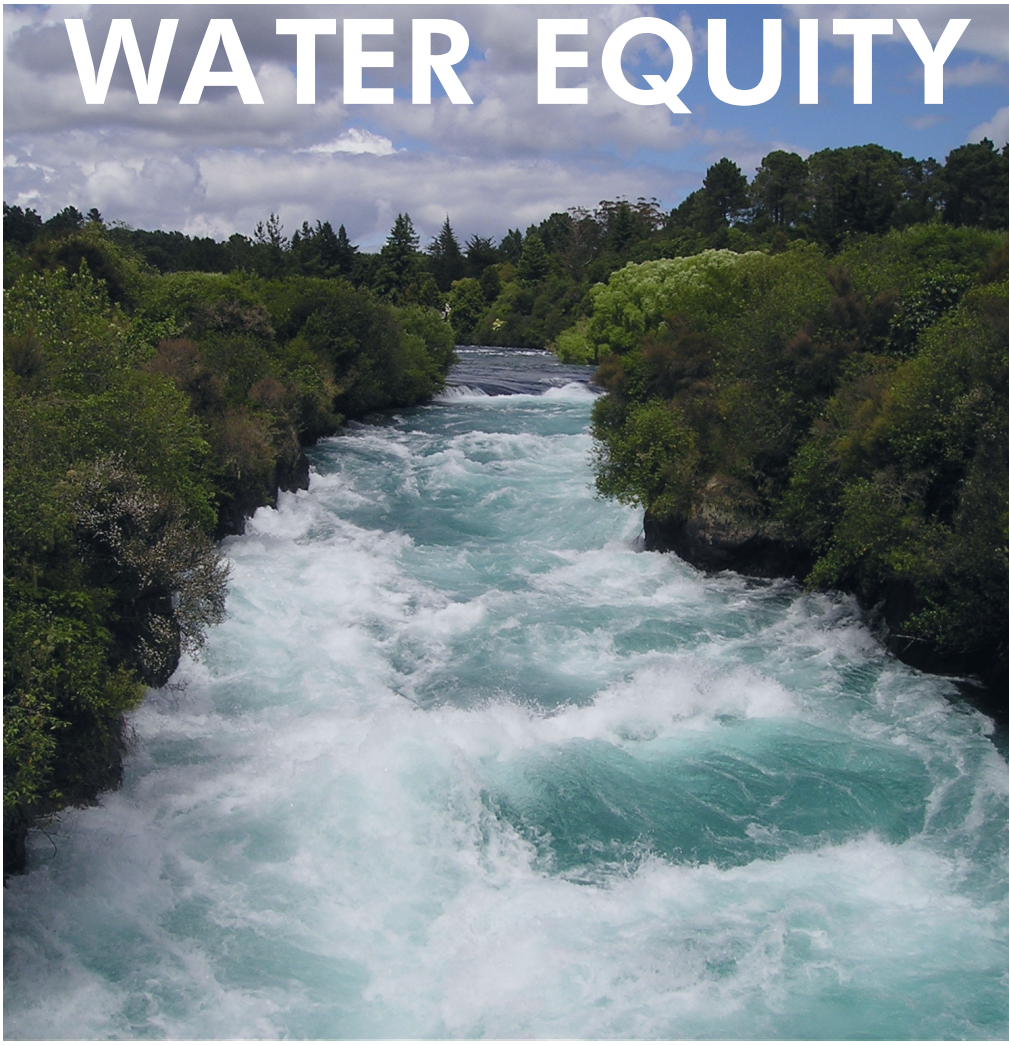
WATER CONSERVATION

Water conservation is the practice of using water efficiently to reduce unnecessary water usage. According to Fresh Water Watch, water conservation is important because fresh clean water is a limited and expensive resource.

As a homeowner, you're probably already well aware of the financial costs of inefficient water use. Conservation of this natural resource is critical for the environment — and our wallets. Because water is a finite resource, our increasing population puts a strain on the critical source. Water has started wars between countries (i.e. Syrian conflict), and exacerbated systematic oppression. It is essential for every individual to be conscious of their water consumption for the survival of humanity. Everyone relies on water to survive.

(Tobi, 2017)

IMPORTANCE OF WATER EQUITY



Water is at the core of sustainable development and is critical for socio-economic development, healthy ecosystems and for human survival itself. It is vital for reducing the global burden of disease and improving the health, welfare and productivity of populations. It is central to the production and preservation of a host of benefits and services for people. Water is also at the heart of adaptation to climate change, serving as the crucial link between the climate system, human society and the environment.

Water is a finite and irreplaceable resource that is fundamental to human well-being. It is only renewable if well managed. Today, more than 1.7 billion people live in river basins where depletion through use exceeds natural recharge, a trend that will see two-thirds of the world's population living in water-stressed countries by 2025.

Water can pose a serious challenge to sustainable development but managed efficiently and equitably, water can play a key enabling role in strengthening the resilience of social, economic and environmental systems in the light of rapid and unpredictable changes.

(Pixabay, 2015)

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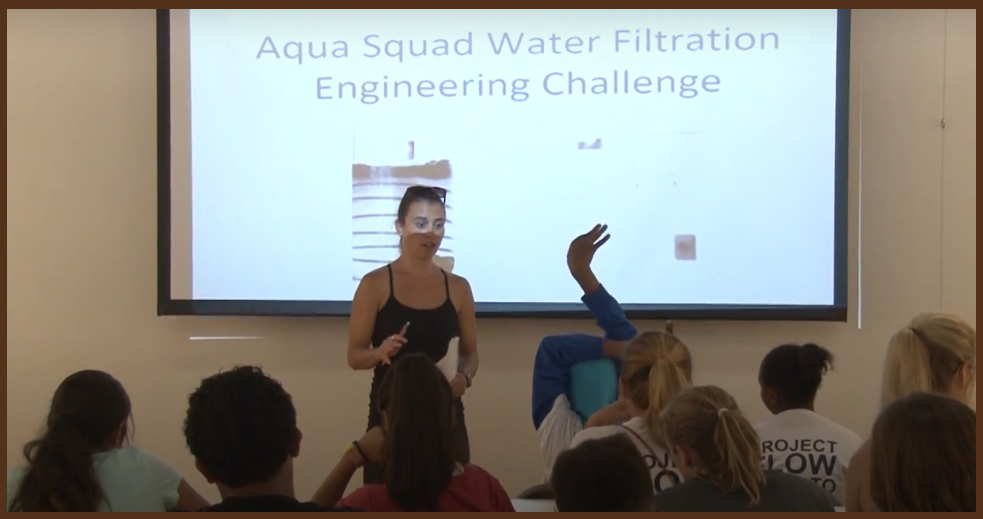
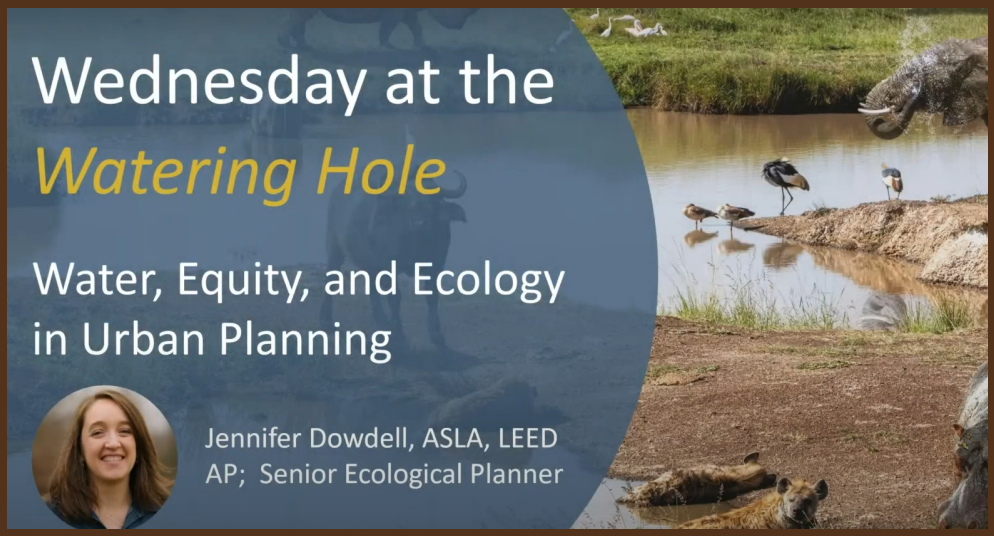
EXTRA RESOURCES

For Middle Schoolers:



Click to Watch Here

For High Schoolers:



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For about one and a half years, Sayan has been passionate about solving the climate crisis through environmental justice by joining various environmental groups in LA, California such as Fridays For Future, etc.

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DELANEY MICHAELSON, 18

Delaney began her activism efforts while she lived abroad in London, England in 2012 when she realized the intersectionality of the climate crisis.