

reason: 3 Conserve Water & Protect Your Community

If your whole community conserves water, you will pay less for water-related services. Water conserving communities will not need to pay as much to develop new water supplies or expand or upgrade their water and wastewater infrastructures such as water and wastewater treatment plants, water mains and miles of piping.

Cleaning water uses a lot of energy and resources. It is much easier and cheaper to keep water clean than to clean it up. By conserving water, you ease the burden on wastewater treatment plants - the less water you send down the drain, the less work these plants have to do to make water clean again.

reason: 4 Conserve Water & Help Meet Future Needs

In some areas of Ontario, we use fresh water faster than it can naturally be replenished, which can lead to long-term water shortages. However, when properly executed, water conservation practices can save thousands of litres of water per person per year!

Wise water use stretches our water resources and can help avoid seasonal and long-term water shortages. Studies show that in some areas there is less groundwater than originally thought, that drilling deeper may provide poorer quality water, and that the aquifer is not being replenished as quickly as we assumed.



4 Reasons to CONSERVE water

Although 80% of the Earth is covered with water, only 3% is fresh water. In fact, less than 1% of all water on Earth is available for our consumption; the rest is salt water, or fresh water that is bound up in glaciers and polar ice caps.

The earth's water consumption increased by 10 times in the last century, and many parts of the world are now reaching the limits of their supply. Populations continue to increase while water supplies dwindle.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Conserving water saves money! Not only will your water bill go down if you conserve water, but as you heat less water, your gas or electricity bill will also decline.

Even if your water comes from a private well, it costs money to drill a well and pump the water through the pipes to your tap. If your well dries up, it costs money to bring water to your home or find a new supply of water. Wells that experience seasonal shortages are also at risk for poor water quality.

In addition, the more water you use in your rural household, the greater the strain on your septic system, which also costs money to upgrade or replace.

reason: 5 Conserve Water & Save Money

The more water you use, the more energy it takes to treat, deliver and possibly heat that water. As well, energy is required to return and treat the resulting wastewater so it can be safely put back into the environment. Most of the electricity produced in Ontario comes with an environmental cost such as pollution, so by using more water you are using more energy and further stressing the environment. Additionally, depending on where you live, wastewater treatment methods vary and the water put back into the environment is sometimes not as clean as the water that was removed.

When water supplies run low or dry from overuse, communities are forced to find new sources of water. The result can be drilling more and deeper wells, withdrawing more water from natural waterbodies, seeking new sources of water or, in some areas, creating dams and reservoirs. Invasive solutions such as these can stress the environment by altering natural ecosystems, depleting aquifers, and depleting or altering the wetlands that supply and replenish our water in the first place.

reason: 6 Conserve Water & Save the Environment

There are many GOOD REASONS to CONSERVE water

A watershed is an area of land that is drained by a river and its tributaries into a particular body of water such as a pond, lake or ocean. Think about your local creek, river or stream. Where does it start? What types of landscapes does it pass through and where does it end up? All of the area covered is a watershed.

Using less water means there is less of a chance of your well running dry in summer or your water quality being compromised.

Using less water means you save money on municipal water and energy bills.

Using less water means less energy is needed to deliver and treat water for personal uses.

Using less water means less water goes back to the wastewater treatment plant for costly processing.

Using less water means easing both seasonal and long-term water shortages for your community.

Using less water means you expand the life of your septic system.

Using less water means discharging less treated water into the watershed.

Using less water means communities may not need to find new sources of water and build new infrastructures.

A watershed is made up of a unique mixture of habitats that influence each other. These habitats include forests, wildlife, creeks, rivers and lakes, farms and even cities or towns. Watersheds come in all sizes – large and small.

What you do upstream, affects the quality and quantity of water downstream. Your lifestyle choices have a significant impact on our water sources so it is up to each of us to protect and conserve water.



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