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INTEGRAL
energy
The power is in your hands

Sustainability Street communities learn how to save water and money on their water bills

Of the entire world's water supply, only 3% is fresh. 2% is trapped in polar ice caps & glaciers and only 1% is available for use to use. The world's freshwater gets 2 million tonnes of pollution poured into it everyday and there are already 'dead zones' in the world's waterways, like in the Gulf of Mexico, where no fish or living creature survives.

Climate change will increase water scarcity by 30%. More than a quarter of animal species living by inland waterways are threatened, as are 12% of bird species. Half of the world's hospital beds are filled with people suffering from preventable illnesses caused by un-fresh water.

Closer to home, Sydney uses 106% of available water and is tipped to use more as the population grows.

The **GOOD NEWS** is that we can all do something about it. We can value water everyday and not pollute or waste it. We make hundreds of decisions everyday that impact on how much water we use and the little things add up. See the tips below and start saving water today.

IN THE HOME

- Turn off the tap while cleaning your teeth, shaving or peeling vegetables;
- Take shorter showers;
- Put a bucket under the shower while waiting for it to get hot and use it to water your plants;
- Use a water efficient (AAA rated) shower head that can save an average household \$400 a year;
- Make sure you have a full load before you put on the washing machine or dishwasher;
- Use water saving devices that you can attach to your taps, available at hardware stores, eg aerators
- Reduce the water used by the toilet – place a brick or toilet flusher saver (available at hardware stores) inside the top of the toilet

IN THE GARDEN

- Plant natives that are used to the Australian climate and therefore need less watering;
- Water early in the morning or late in the afternoon – If you water in the middle of the day the sun will evaporate most of the water before the plants receive it;
- Water near the roots of plants, for longer and less often;
- Mulch around your plants to prevent moisture loss;
- Check for leaks – look at the dials on the water meter before going to bed and again in the morning, and if any dials move, you may have a leak;
- Re-use water from your washing machine onto your garden;
- Install a rainwater tank to water your garden.



Install a rainwater tank to flush your toilet & water your garden

THIS MONTH – The '**Flower**' Streets will meet at Nemesia Street Park Hall before taking a walk to Matt & Kelly's place to learn more on having a garden that flowers throughout the year, doesn't require much watering and attracts small birds. **Sturdee Street** are meeting on Sunday this month to learn how to reduce the amount of waste we dispose to landfill and produce FREE fertiliser by worm farming or composting. Hope to see you there!

**** NEXT MEETING ****

The 'Flower' Streets Greystanes
Sunday 27 August 2006 2pm
Venue: Nemesia Street Park Hall

Sturdee Street Wentworthville
Thursday 20 August 2006 2.00 - 4.00pm
Cassia Community Centre, Emert Street Wenty