

Will Water Usage Really Affect Me?

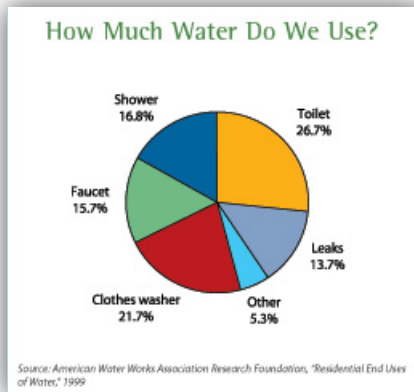
Yes...

Lake Michigan Communities: “Water supplies are not going to dry up but projections by the University of Illinois Water Survey show that water supplies won't be able to keep up with population growth.”

http://chicagoist.com/2009/10/13/updated_studies_show_that_by.php

“Without effective planning, water demand could increase as much as 64 percent by 2050, creating potentially serious shortages.”

<http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/about/for-media/press-release-1-26-10>



Communities on Wells are already realizing that aquifers are drying up and consumption is far exceeding their replenishment rate. In turn communities are forced to drill deeper wells, with more difficult treatment or, if in Chicagoland, try to invest millions into Lake Michigan connections. Adding to the pressure on the Lake resources.

For Additional Water Efficiency Resources

<http://www.isawwa.org/default.asp?page=WaterEfficiency>



“Careful planning and management of our water resources is critical to ensuring supplies of clean water at a reasonable cost in the future.”

http://www.openlands.org/filebin/images/plans_reports/Policy_Issues_Water_Supply_Troubled_Waters.pdf



Is Water Really a Limited Resource?

Yes...



“Illinois is a water-rich state with resources adequate to meet most existing and future demands for water. However, in areas with high population growth future demands may well exceed existing available water resources.”

<http://www.isws.illinois.edu/docs/wsfaq/wsmore.asp?id=g>

Water Efficiency

What is Water Efficiency?

The accomplishment of a function, task, process, or result with the minimal amount of water (Wikipedia)

Water efficiency is the smart use of our water resources through water-saving technologies and simple steps we can all take around the house. Using water efficiently will help ensure reliable water supplies today and for future generations. (USEPA)



Why Conserve Water?

Financial Impact on Utilities:



The more water efficient our consumers become, the less money that will need to be invested into our water systems for infrastructure, operations, and maintenance. Less water will need to be pumped; less water storage will be needed to be constructed.

Water efficiency could delay or eliminate the need to construct new tanks, wells, etc., resulting in significant savings.

Water and energy use are intertwined. Water efficiency also saves energy. A decline in water use by consumers equates to energy savings for both the residents and the utility.

Financial impact on Residents:

“The average family spends \$950 per year in water costs, but can save \$310 from retrofitting with WaterSense labeled fixtures and ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances.” (USEPA) Such appliances include clothes washers, dishwashers, etc.

Environmental

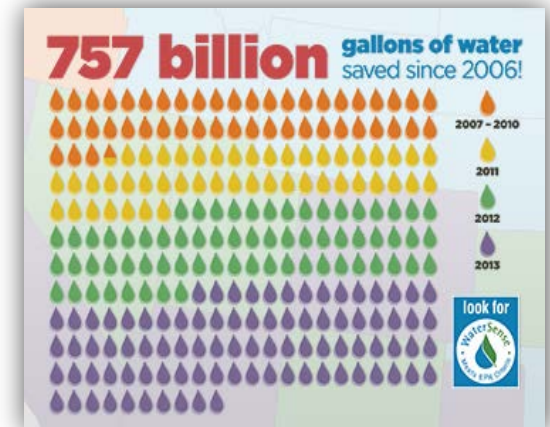
Impact:

Water Quality - Reducing our water footprint will result in cleaner source water for both drinking water treatment and recreational use.



What Can My Community Do?

- Adopt policies, procedures, and programs that result in the efficient use of water, including:
- Restricting outdoor watering
 - Peak water use is what dictates the amount of storage, supply, and treatment required for a utility. Reducing peak water use can save a utility millions of dollars in infrastructure capital costs and as a result maintenance costs. Peak water use typically occurs during summer months as a result of outdoor watering.
- Create rebate programs for WaterSense Appliances, Toilets, Showers, etc.



WaterSense®

- Educate water consumers
- Adopt green codes such as drought tolerant plantings, rain gardens, roof-top gardens, permeable pavement in alleys, etc.
- Support municipal water utility infrastructure project improvements such as leak detection, water main repair and replacement, meter accuracy enhancements, energy efficiency improvements within water distribution system.