

# King County Green Schools Program



*Reduce*



• *Reuse* •



*Recycle*



• *Rethink*

Water conservation  
and pollution prevention



**King County**

Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks  
**Solid Waste Division**

Waste  
Prevention

Resource  
Recovery

Waste  
Disposal

# Today we will become experts in water conservation and pollution prevention by understanding

- why we conserve water and prevent water pollution
- how we can conserve water and prevent pollution at school and at home.

# Why we conserve water and prevent pollution ...



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# Why we conserve water and prevent pollution ...



or



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# Fact or Fiction?



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# Fact or Fiction?

Although 70 percent of the earth is made of water, only 3 percent of the water is drinkable, while 97 percent is saltwater or otherwise undrinkable.



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Although 70 percent of the earth is made of water, only 3 percent of the water is drinkable, while 97 percent is saltwater or otherwise undrinkable.



**FACT**

# Fact or Fiction?



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# Fact or Fiction?

The average American uses 40 to 60 gallons of water per day.



# Fact or Fiction?

The average American uses 40 to 60 gallons of water per day.



# Fact or Fiction?

The average American  
uses 80 to 100 gallons of  
water per day.



# Fact or Fiction?



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# Fact or Fiction?

An automatic dishwasher uses about 20 gallons of water, whereas hand washing dishes uses between 4 and 6 gallons of water.



# Fact or Fiction?

An automatic dishwasher uses about 20 gallons of water, whereas hand washing dishes uses between 4 and 6 gallons of water.





# Fact or Fiction?

An automatic dishwasher uses **4 to 6 gallons** of water, whereas hand washing dishes can use up to **20 gallons** of water.



# Fact or Fiction?



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# Fact or Fiction?

Stormwater carries pollution from our communities to storm drains, which lead directly to lakes, rivers, and Puget Sound.



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# Fact or Fiction?



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# Fact or Fiction?

Taking a bath uses less water than taking a 5 to 10 minute shower.



# Fact or Fiction?

Taking a bath uses less water than taking a 5 to 10 minute shower.



**FICTION**

# Fact or Fiction?

A full bath tub requires about **70 gallons of water**, while taking a five-minute shower uses only **10 to 25 gallons**.





# Fact or Fiction?



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# Fact or Fiction?

Washing your car at a commercial car wash, picking up pet waste, and putting litter in its place are all ways you can prevent water pollution.



# Fact or Fiction?

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**FACT**

# Conserving water and preventing pollution helps us...



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# Conserving water and preventing pollution helps us...

- Protect natural resources

# Conserving water and preventing pollution helps us...

- Protect natural resources
- Keep our environment clean and healthy

# Conserving water and preventing pollution helps us...

- Protect natural resources
- Keep our environment clean and healthy
- Save money

# How can we conserve water and prevent pollution at school and at home?

# Conserving Water and Preventing Pollution

Post signs on or near faucets to remind staff and students to conserve water. Report leaks to custodian or teacher.

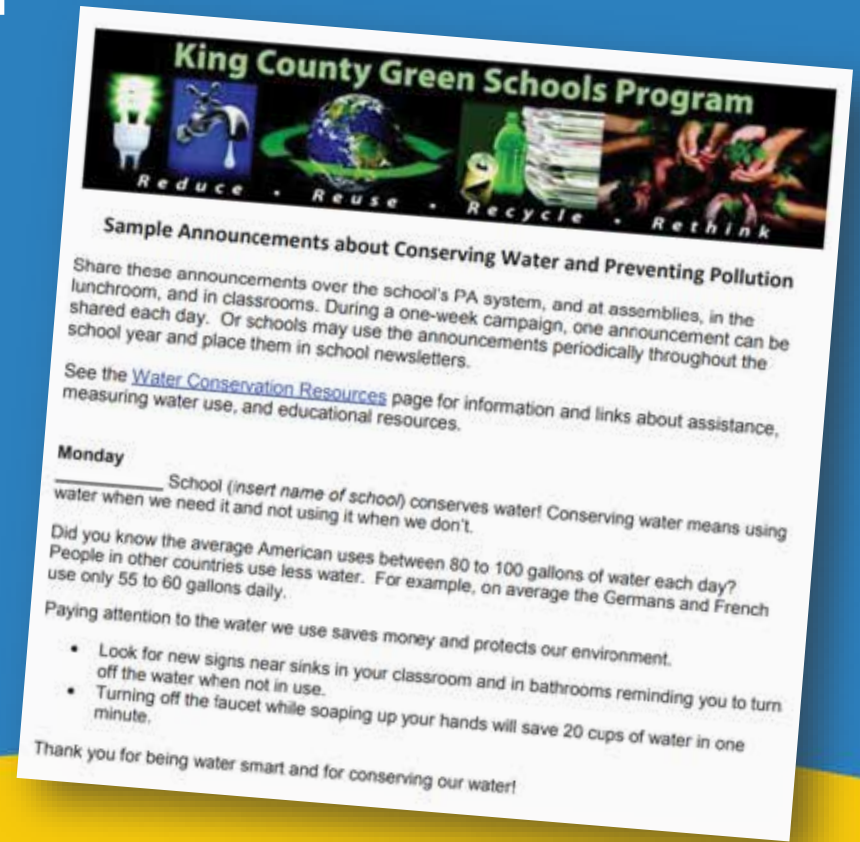




# Conserving Water and Preventing Pollution

Regularly share a water conservation and pollution prevention fact, tip, or practice via:

- Morning announcements
- Staff meetings
- School assemblies



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Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

**Sample Announcements about Conserving Water and Preventing Pollution**

Share these announcements over the school's PA system, and at assemblies, in the lunchroom, and in classrooms. During a one-week campaign, one announcement can be shared each day. Or schools may use the announcements periodically throughout the school year and place them in school newsletters.

See the [Water Conservation Resources](#) page for information and links about assistance, measuring water use, and educational resources.

**Monday**

\_\_\_\_\_ School (insert name of school) conserves water! Conserving water means using water when we need it and not using it when we don't.

Did you know the average American uses between 80 to 100 gallons of water each day? People in other countries use less water. For example, on average the Germans and French use only 55 to 60 gallons daily.

Paying attention to the water we use saves money and protects our environment.

- Look for new signs near sinks in your classroom and in bathrooms reminding you to turn off the water when not in use.
- Turning off the faucet while soaping up your hands will save 20 cups of water in one minute.

Thank you for being water smart and for conserving our water!

# Conserving Water and Preventing Pollution



## Pledge to Conserve Water and Prevent Water Pollution

Conserving water and preventing water pollution saves natural resources and keeps our water clean. Did you know that conserving water also helps to curb climate change? It takes energy to pump, heat and treat the water we use, so the less water we use, the fewer greenhouse gas emissions we produce.

Commit to at least three activities and return this signed pledge to your teacher.

I pledge to conserve water and prevent water pollution in my school and at home. I will:

- Turn off faucets or other water sources when not in use, and use water sparingly for classroom projects and assignments.
- Tell a custodian or teacher if I see a leaky faucet, a running toilet, or a puddle of water that should not be there.
- Join or start a school "water patrol" - a group of students who spot check school areas to identify leaky faucets and running toilets and then inform custodians so that they can be fixed.
- Share with my family a few ways to conserve water at home, such as turning off the faucet when brushing teeth or soaping hands, taking shorter showers, and running the dishwasher or clothes washer only with full loads.
- Teach a friend why it is important to conserve water and share tips on how to conserve water.
- Bring a reusable water bottle from home instead of using a single-use plastic bottle. This conserves the water from another watershed in the world and also reduces use of plastic bottles.
- Plant a rain garden or a tree at school or at home to help prevent water pollution.
- Find out where my school or home water comes from and where it ends up after it goes down the drain - and share that information with my class or my family.
- To protect water quality, always pick up pet waste and place it in the trash.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Take a pledge to conserve water and prevent pollution at home and at school.

# Conserving Water and Preventing Pollution

Perform a faucet flow audit to identify areas in the school where water can be conserved.



# Conserving Water and Preventing Pollution



Carry out a “Puget Sound Starts Here” campaign.

# Conserving Water and Preventing Pollution

Find out where your drinking water comes from, where it ends up after it goes down the drain, and the location of your school in the watershed.





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