

Project Green Challenge

Day 10: Water

greener challenge



Ecological Earthlings
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Although nearly 70 percent of the world is covered by water, in reality only 1 percent of it is freshwater that can be used as drinking water. The rest is either salt water from our oceans or trapped in glaciers and snowfields.

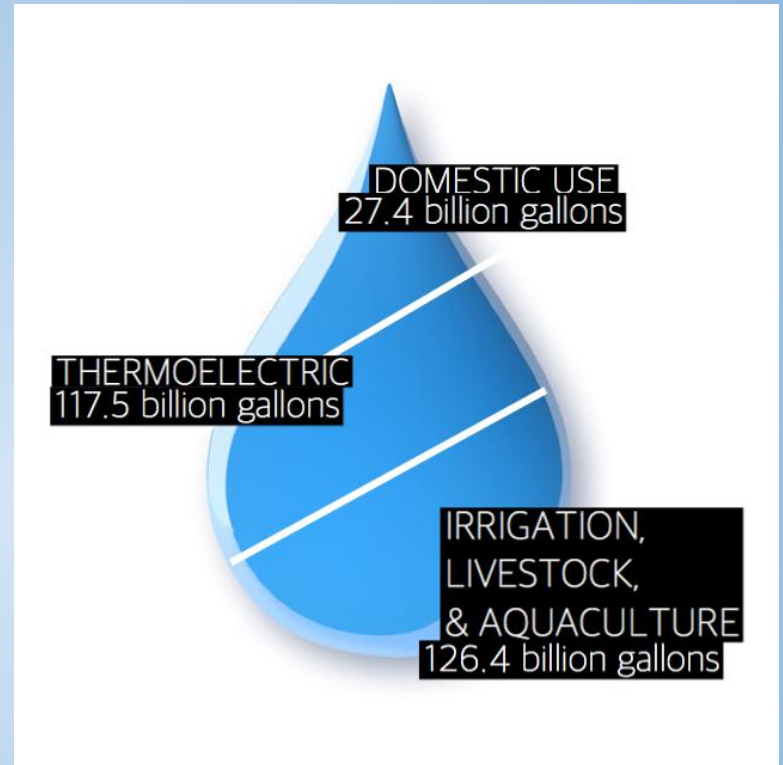
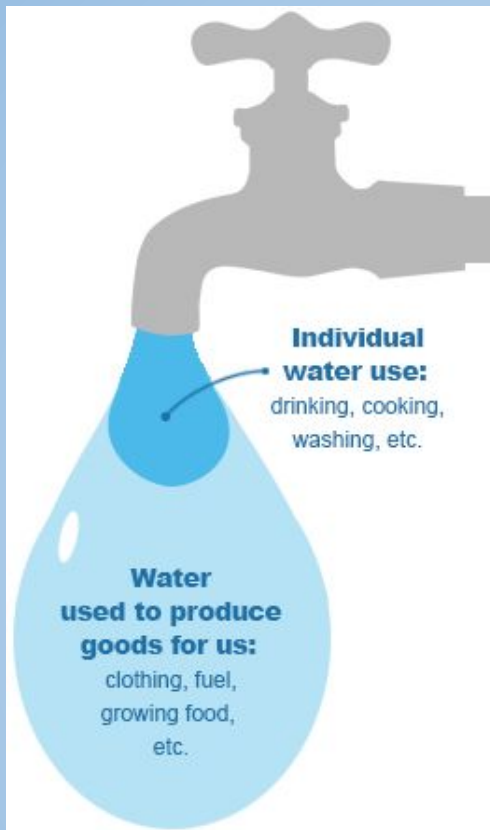


In essence, only 0.007 percent of the planet's water is available to fuel and feed its 6.8 billion people.

*according to
National Geographic



400 Gallons of water are used during an average American family's day



Although we don't see it, millions of gallons of water go into the products we buy. We many times take water for granted.

We compiled a list of 5 items that we use/wear/eat in our everyday lives that require surprisingly immense amounts of water to produce.

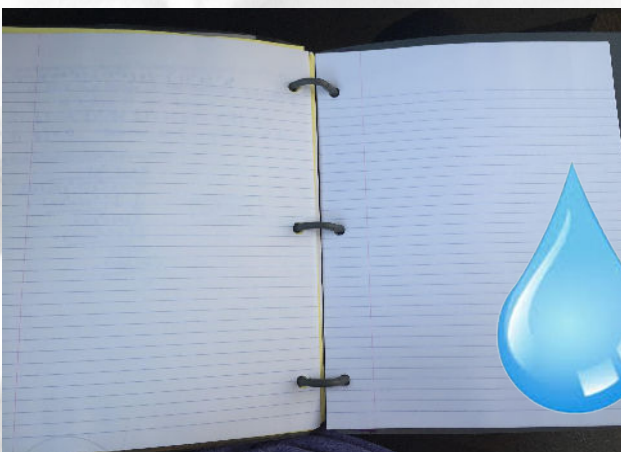
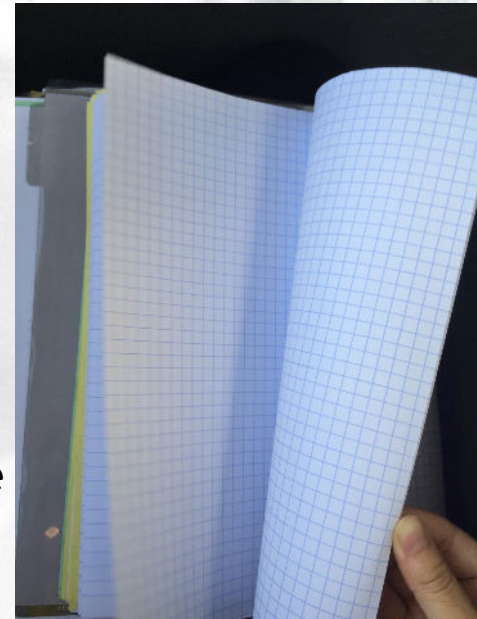
1. PAPER



**IT TAKES MORE THAN 3 GALLONS
OF WATER TO MAKE ONE SHEET OF
PAPER!**

That's 120 gallons for 40 sheets!

Paper is a major component of our everyday lives. When we discovered how much water it takes to produce just a single sheet, we were very surprised. Typically when we think of paper, we do not think of water that was put into making it, rather we think of the wood from trees. However, although it does take wood to produce paper, water is also needed for the formation sheets.



OUR ALTERNATIVE:

Instead of using paper to access files or take notes for school, we can use a laptop or tablet. With technology constantly advancing in this age, we have many resources online that we should take advantage of. This way, we'll be able to save both trees and water.

DID YOU KNOW: On average, a person in the United States uses more than 700 pounds of paper every year. Paper in the U.S. represents one of the biggest components of solid waste in landfills – 26 million tons (or 16% of landfill solid waste) in 2009.

2. CARS



It takes about 70 gallons of water to produce 1 gallon of gas. It takes about 120,000 gallons of water to produce a average car.

It only takes about 35 gallons of water to produce a bicycle.



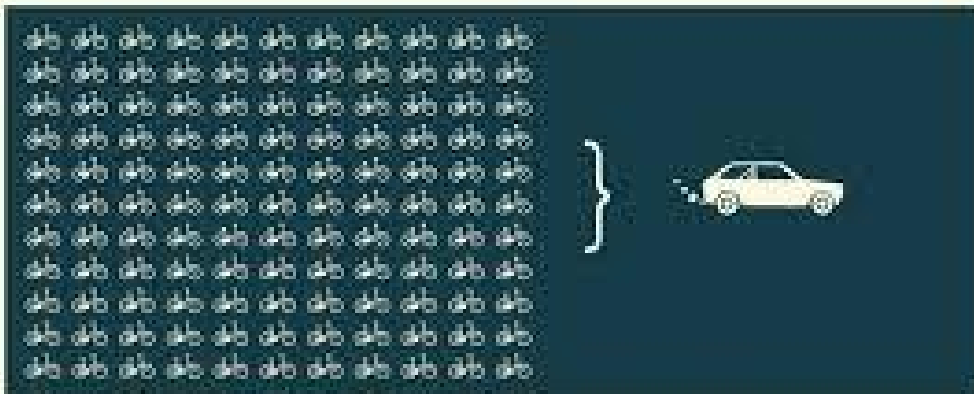
OUR REACTION:

We were really surprised when we found out making a car costed water. The two seem so different, yet, they rely on each other greatly. After doing some research, we found out that major water uses in the automotive manufacturing industry includes surface treatment and coating, paint spray booths, washing, rinsing, hosing, cooling, air-conditioning systems and boilers. And that isn't all of it, the component manufacturing segment has its own list of water-intensive processes and there is the matter of wastewater.

OUR ALTERNATIVE:



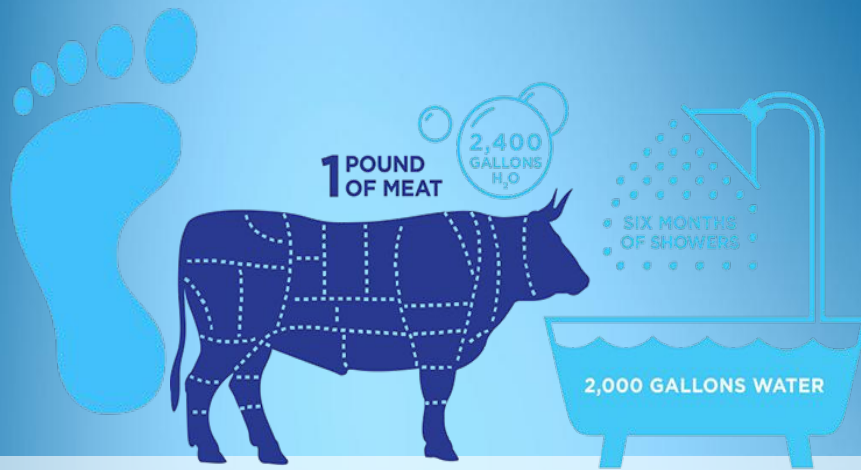
Instead of driving around everywhere, we can walk or use a bike! Cars not only use 120,000 gallons of water, but release harmful pollutants into the air like carbon dioxide. While this may not be possible all the time, using public transportation, like buses, is still better than driving in a car. Choosing a bike over a car is a much environmentally friendly alternative.



The energy and resources required when building one medium-sized car could produce 100 bicycles.

3. MEAT

It takes more than
2,400
gallons of
water to produce
just 1 pound of
meat.



WHY?

This large water footprint is primarily due to the tremendous amount of water needed to grow grass and forage for the cattle to eat, plus water for drinking, cleaning and processing.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

According to PETA, You can save more water by not eating a pound of meat than you can by not showering for six months!



We can help solve the water crisis step by step by limiting how much meat we eat in our diet. Next time I order something containing meat, I will definitely think twice about how much water was put into making it. In addition, alternative vegan or vegetarian diets will definitely help contribute to conserving water.

4. CELL PHONES

In our modern day society, cell phones are an immense part of everyday life. But many people don't know that it takes 240 collective gallons (from all the plastics, metals, materials, etc.) to manufacture one cell phone! This isn't even counting how much energy is used in charging these phones and how their chargers can also be phantom energy wasters like we previously learned!





Alternatives to cell phones are not very adaptable to our high-tech lives. However, once in awhile, people need a break from their phones. So, turn off your phone and conserve energy instead of using it and charging it!

Otherwise, there are also wifi calling apps on your computer to replace cell phones like Google Voice, Skype, and MagicJack, or a landline!

magicJack®



5. COTTON T-SHIRT

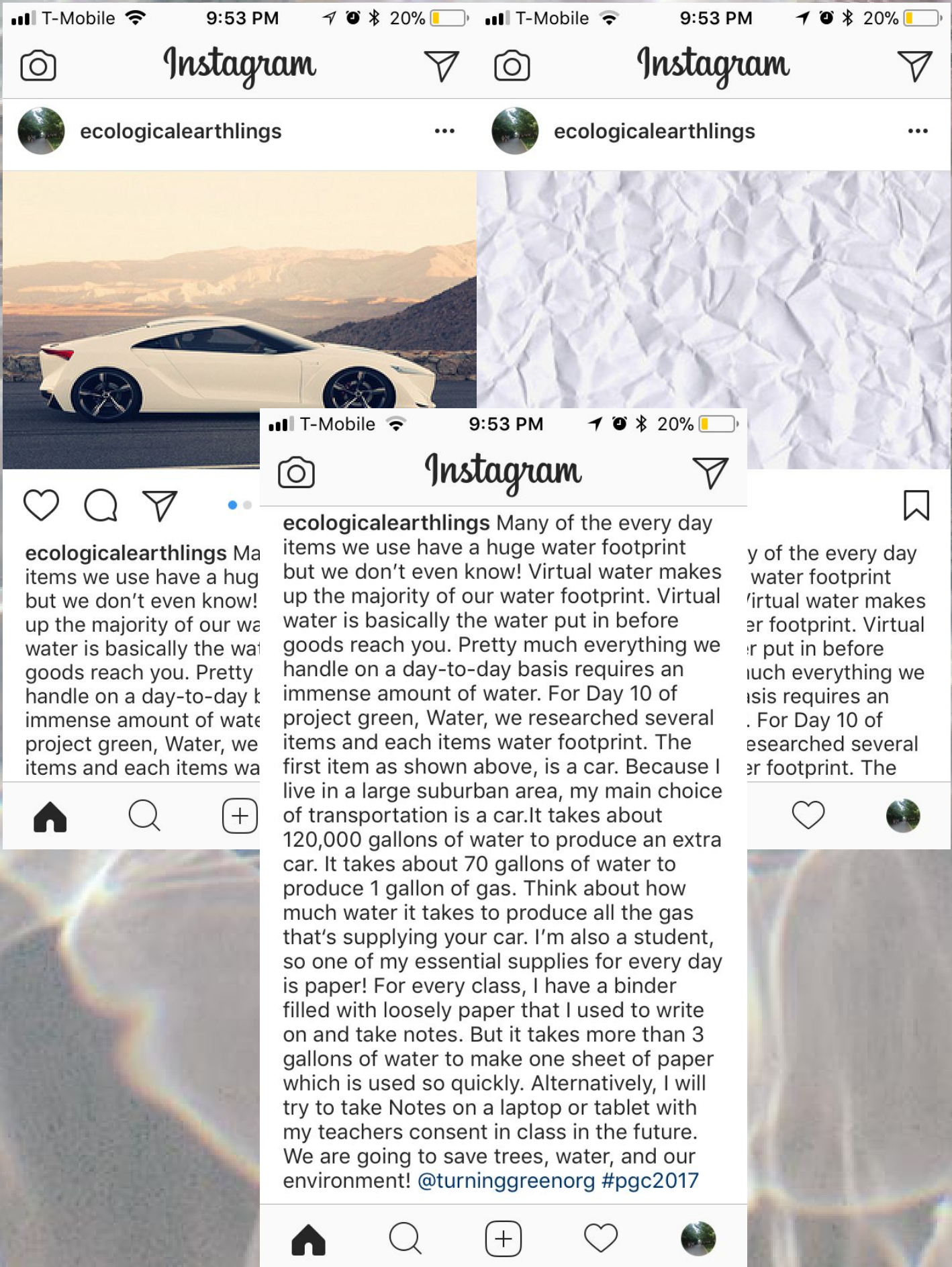
Pretty much everyone owns a t-shirt, maybe 2, 3, or 10? It seems like such an everyday item would take less water but that isn't true. Cotton t-shirts require about 700 gallons to produce. Cotton requires water when grown, especially in places with little rain. Also, cotton doesn't return nutrients to soil like many other plants do, so it is bad for our environment.

An alternative to this may be buying clothing from greener materials like hemp and tencel. But by far the most effective one would be just buying less clothes from stores, more from thrift stores, and donating old clothing. This decreases production of clothing that most of us just don't need!

Did you know that the amount of carbon dioxide emitted to produce one pair of jeans is equivalent to driving 78 miles?



OUR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS:



ecologicalearthlings Many of the every day items we use have a huge water footprint but we don't even know! Virtual water makes up the majority of our water footprint. Virtual water is basically the water put in before goods reach you. Pretty much everything we handle on a day-to-day basis requires an immense amount of water. For Day 10 of project green, Water, we researched several items and each items water footprint. The first item as shown above, is a car. Because I live in a large suburban area, my main choice of transportation is a car. It takes about 120,000 gallons of water to produce an extra car. It takes about 70 gallons of water to produce 1 gallon of gas. Think about how much water it takes to produce all the gas that's supplying your car. I'm also a student, so one of my essential supplies for every day is paper! For every class, I have a binder filled with loosely paper that I used to write on and take notes. But it takes more than 3 gallons of water to make one sheet of paper which is used so quickly. Alternatively, I will try to take Notes on a laptop or tablet with my teachers consent in class in the future. We are going to save trees, water, and our environment! @turninggreenorg #pgc2017

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An underwater photograph looking up towards the surface, where bright sunlight filters through the water, creating a shimmering, ethereal effect. The water is a deep blue, and the light rays are clearly visible, creating a sense of depth and tranquility.

SAVE WATER SAVE LIFE

ERADICATE WATER SCARCITY

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