

Lena Lin

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Bloomington High School South

Day 7 Greener

Product	Water Required	Explanation
Rice	200 gallons per pound	Rice must go through an extensive milling process before it is edible. Steps include pre-cleaning, dehusking, paddy separation, whitening and polishing, grading and separation of white rice, mixing, mist polishing, etc. Any of these steps, especially cleaning, could involve water. Additionally, the actual growing of rice requires water as well.
Smartphone	3,190 gallons per phone	Mining the metals necessary, creating the chemicals necessary, assembling, packaging, etc. all require water. Additionally, the wastewater produced by the whole process must be diluted with freshwater to meet safety standards, which raises the water footprint even more.
Eggs	52 gallons per egg	The chicken that produces the egg must have water to live, and water must also be used to wash the egg.
Gasoline	2.5 gallons per gallon of gasoline	Water must be used to refine the gasoline.

Hamburger	660 gallons per burger	Water must be used to ready farmland for cows, raise the cows, grow wheat, grow lettuce, grow tomatoes, etc. Most of the water is used to raise the cow.
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- At first I was surprised by how little water an egg and hamburger require, although after thinking it through it makes sense because chickens probably do not require a lot of water to be raised, and an entire hamburger uses only parts of a whole (for example, it only requires a part of the cow, not an entire one)
- For the past year or so I've been trying to take short, cold showers, but I always divulge from my goal because I have very little self control. Now, I will try again at this goal but make it easier for myself so that it is more likely that I actually accomplish it. I will play two songs and make sure I finish showering before the last song ends. I think that that will help keep my direct water footprint is relatively low, as I don't ever leave water running elsewhere. As for a long term goal, I want to slowly reduce the amount of meat I eat because that is by far the most impactful on my water footprint. My mom and I have decided to start with Meatless Mondays. Additionally, I will buy local more so that I can reduce the water footprint caused by the transportation of food across long distances.
- I could eat less rice, buy smartphones only if my previous one is completely broken, and eat less hamburgers. My long term goal is to completely cut out hamburgers. As for eggs, the best way for me to reduce the water footprint concerning them is to buy them locally. I don't think reducing my gasoline-caused water footprint is as simple because I only ever drive by myself if I have no one to car-pool with. Also, public transportation is not

available close enough to my house to be useful, although I am thinking about buying a bike so that I can bike to my friend's houses instead of driving.