

Saving Water at Home *Leader's Guide*

Objectives:

As a result of this program, participants will:

- Increase awareness of the water cycle (i.e., that water is recycled and that there is no new water) and the amount of fresh water available on earth.
- Understand the importance of conserving water.
- Increase knowledge of water conservation practices used at home and in emergency situations.
- Implement one or more water conservation practices.

Teaching Points:

Text in *Teaching Points* section is used/adapted with permission from the following Extension Bulletins: *Saving Water at Home (HENV-601)* and *Saving Water Saves Energy (HENV-704)*. See *References* section for additional information.

Kentucky's Waters

- Many may consider Kentucky a "water-rich" state with over 90,000 miles of streams and rivers, thousands of ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, and 40 to 50 inches of precipitation per year. So, it's not surprising that water, one of our most valuable natural resources, is often taken for granted.
- According to the Kentucky Geological survey, "Kentucky has more navigable miles than any other state except Alaska."

There is no new water.

- The water we use today is the same water our ancestors used thousands of years ago and will be the same water future generations will use in years to come.
- There is no new water.
- Water travels from the air through condensation to the earth as precipitation and back to the atmosphere by evaporation.
- Water conservation is not about saving water but about having sufficient clean water at any given time and place to meet our needs.

Why conserve water?

- Using less water can better prepare us for water shortages and drought situations.
- Conserving water conserves energy.
 - Obtaining water from streams, rivers, aquifers, and other water bodies, and transporting it to water treatment facilities requires large amounts of energy.
 - Once at water treatment facilities, energy is needed to pump and process water, and distribute water to consumers.
 - Further energy is used by consumers to treat water with softeners and filters, circulate and pressurize water with pumps and irrigation systems, and heat and cool water.
 - Then the spent water or wastewater consumes more energy as it is pumped to treatment plants, and aerated and filtered at the plant.
 - By conserving water, we decrease our demand for energy-intensive systems that obtain, treat, and distribute water.

- Conserving water saves money
 - Each year the average household spends as much as \$500 on water and sewer bills. With more efficient water use, around \$170 per year could be saved.

Water Use in Kentucky

- Ask participants if they know how much water the average Kentuckian uses per day. Answer is appropriately 70 gallons of water per person per day.

Tips for Conserving Water in the Bathroom

- Discuss tips to conserve water in the bathroom (see page 3 of *Saving Water at Home HENV-601*). Ask participants if they have additional tips or comments to share about saving water in the bathroom.
- Discuss tips to conserve water in the bathroom during emergency situations, such as a drought (see page 3 of *Saving Water at Home HENV-601*).

Tips for Conserving Water in the Kitchen

- Discuss tips to conserve water in the kitchen (see page 4 of *Saving Water at Home HENV-601*). Ask participants if they have additional tips or comments to share about saving water in the kitchen.
- Discuss tips to conserve water in the kitchen during emergency situations, such as a drought (see page 4 of *Saving Water at Home HENV-601*).

Tips for Conserving Water in the Laundry

- Discuss tips to conserve water in the laundry (see page 4-5 of *Saving Water at Home HENV-601*). Ask participants if they have additional tips or comments to share about saving water in the laundry.
- Discuss tips to conserve water in the laundry during emergency situations, such as a drought (see page 4-5 of *Saving Water at Home HENV-601*).

Tips for Conserving Water in regards to Equipment and Appliances

- Discuss tips to conserve water in regards to equipment and appliances (see page 5 of *Saving Water at Home HENV-601*). Ask participants if they have additional tips or comments to share about saving water in regards to equipment and appliances.
- Discuss tips to conserve water in regards to equipment and appliances during emergency situations, such as a drought (see page 5 of *Saving Water at Home HENV-601*).

Tips for Conserving Water in the Landscape and Garden

- Discuss tips to conserve water in the landscape and garden (see page 5-6 of *Saving Water at Home HENV-601*). Ask participants if they have additional tips or comments to share about saving water in the landscape and garden.
- Discuss tips to conserve water in the landscape and garden during emergency situations, such as a drought (see page 6 of *Saving Water at Home HENV-601*).

Tips for Conserving Water Outdoors

- Discuss tips to conserve water outdoors (see page 6 of *Saving Water at Home HENV-601*). Ask participants if they have additional tips or comments to share about saving water outdoors.
- Discuss tips to conserve water outdoors during emergency situations, such as a drought (see page 6 of *Saving Water at Home HENV-601*).

Evaluation

- At the end of the lesson, give each participant an evaluation form. See the Evaluation section of this guide for more information.

Handout:

- Saving Water at Home HENV-601. Available online at: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/HENV/HENV601/HENV601.pdf>. (Contact your county agent for assistance with printing out and copying handouts.)

Activity Ideas:

- Participate in the *40 Gallon Challenge*. Information is available online at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/enri/40galchal.php>. The *40 Gallon Challenge* is a national campaign that challenges residents to conserve at least 40 gallons of water per day. Taking the *40 Gallon Challenge* is as simple as filling out the Pledge Card, either online or at your local Extension office. The Pledge Card includes simple no-cost suggestions, such as shortening your shower by two minutes, to tips which require more effort and money, such as replacing an old, non-efficient toilet with new low-flush toilet.
- Conduct a rain barrel workshop, discussing the advantages of rain barrels. Build a rain barrel with participants using the [Building a Rain Barrel](#) factsheet.
- Identify community partners who are conducting water conservation programs or projects in the community. Invite these organizations or individuals to present at a meeting or go on a tour of their facility.

Evaluation:

1. Give each participant an evaluation form at the end of the lesson to complete and turn in.
2. Give each participant an envelope. Have participants write their name and mailing address on the envelope. In 6 months, send a follow-up evaluation (and self-addressed envelope) to participants using the addressed envelope. Ask participants to complete the follow-up evaluation and mail back to you.
3. Please send all evaluations to your county Extension agent.

References:

KY Geological Survey. 2014. Water Facts. Available at: http://www.uky.edu/KGS/education/factsheet_water.pdf

University of Kentucky. 2012. Saving Water at Home HENV-601. Available at: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/HENV/HENV601/HENV601.pdf>.

University of Kentucky. 2011. Saving Water Saves Energy HENV-704. Available at: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/henv/henv704/henv704.PDF>.

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