

First Place - 2010 SACP Middle School Essay

Liquid Effort

Imagine a world where water is plentiful, abundantly flowing throughout the lands. This isn't our world. The world's population will increase by 33% which will increase water demand by 30%.⁽¹⁾ This is a staggering statistic considering earth is already in a water crisis. One sixth of the world population does not have access to clean drinking water.⁽²⁾ In our country many of our rivers, including the Colorado River don't flow to an ocean⁽³⁾. The time has come for a resolve to create technology and public policy that helps conserve this precious resource.

Water conservation can be practiced at all levels. Homeowners can use waterless compost toilets which would reduce water usage by 50%.⁽⁴⁾ Lawns should not be watered. In fact, no lawn should exist where the climate doesn't support it. Turning lights off saves water because electricity production requires a huge amount of water to cool power plants.

At the city level, water conservation can be implemented using permeable pavements that recharge groundwater instead of dumping it into storm water facilities. During this process the water is actually purified by natural filtration saving energy that would be required to purify it for reuse. Pumping groundwater is one way cities and farms obtain water. Pumping in many cases exceeds the amount that is being recharged by nature which results in "desertification" of many areas.⁽⁵⁾ Cities should not be constructed in areas where aquifers can't support the water demand.

Water conservation at a national level should include new technology that redefines how resources are used. There are currently 50,000 dams worldwide that control water and produce electricity. Dams hurt rivers by restricting water flow. "Micro turbine technology" requires no constraint to water, allowing it to flow freely to the ocean while supplying us with electricity.⁽⁶⁾

There are many ways we can manage the water crisis. Some require minimal effort, others more herculean ones. If we want a more utopian scenario for Earth, everyone must make the effort.

John Twist

Morgantown High School

Carol Muniz

Faculty Sponsor