



Water

St Mark's Creation Care Ministry
Climate Conversations
Kathy Minsch and Richard Hartung

August 2022





Agenda

- Land Acknowledgement
- Introduction
- Opening Prayer
- Water & Climate Change (Richard)
- Saving Water Indoors (Kathy)
- Breakout
- Saving Water Outdoors (Kathy and Richard)
- Go Big to Save Water (Kathy and Richard)
- Breakout
- Sharing and Q&A
- Closing

We Depend on Water

- Water to drink
- Oceans for food
- Oceans for transport
- Water at church



Water Issues

- Drought
- Floods
- Drinking water contamination
- Ocean, river and lake pollution

Megadrought in Southwest Is Now the Worst in at Least 1,200 Years, Study Confirms

BY COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL | FEBRUARY 14, 2022

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255 water for testing from a drinking fountain at Emerson Elementary School in South Seattle. (Mike Siegel / The Seattle Times)

Photos: Seattle Times - *Mike Siegel / The Seattle Times* and Columbia Climate School - *Kevin Krajick/Earth Institute*)

Testing the waters: Lead exceeds acceptable levels in water at many Seattle schools

Originally published February 1, 2019 at 5:00 am | Updated April 19, 2019 at 12:09 pm

Water & Scripture

- Water is mentioned 722 times in the Bible
 - More often than faith, hope, prayer, and worship
- Genesis 1:6 - God said, Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.
- Psalm 104:10-11 He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains. They give water to all the beasts of the field...
- Matthew 10:42 - If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.

Water in Seattle

- The Cedar River and Tolt watersheds supply Seattle with drinking water
 - Headwaters of the Cedar River near Yakima pass (photo)
 - 18% of water flow is used for drinking water
- Watershed management
- Water treatment facilities
 - Improve source quality to meet health, taste and odor requirements



Source: <https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/protecting-our-environment>

Conserve Water Indoors – Toilets & Showers

- Toilets
 - ¼ of water use in homes
 - Install low flow toilet (Seattle rebate)
 - Fix leaks

- Showers
 - 20% of water use in homes
 - A low flow showerhead can save 2,300 gallons/year
 - Take shorter showers



Conserve Water Indoors – Manage Appliances

- Fill appliances & wash less often
 - Fill the washer
 - Fill the dishwasher
- Replace the dishwasher
 - New ones save 1,000+ gallons/year
 - Dishwashers can use less water than hand-washing dishes
- Replace the washer
 - Average family: 300 loads/year
 - 40% of water use
 - New ones save >3,000 gallons/year



Conserve Water Indoors – Use Less

- Turn off the tap
 - Brushing teeth – 200 gallons/month
 - Shaving
- Wash the car with a cloth or sponge
 - Hoses use 6 gallons/minute
- Low flow faucets
 - Aerator - \$5 device saves 30% of water



Sources: <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-kids#Simple%20Ways%20to%20Save%20Water>
<https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/protecting-our-environment/sustainability-tips/conservate-water/for-residents>

Conserve Water Indoors – Water Audit

- Analyze usage
- Analyze appliance
- Detect leaks
- Change behaviors



Indoor Water Audit

- https://www.cummingutilities.com/Household_Water_Audit_2006.pdf
- <https://www.bremertonwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/758/Indoor-Water-Audit-Worksheet-PDF?bidId=>

Conserve Water Indoors – Innovative Ideas

- Insulate your water pipes
 - Get hot water faster
- Reduce water pressure
- Reuse water to water plants
 - Cooking water
- Consider foods
 - Plant-based diets can save 4,000 gallons/week



Discussion or Breakout Session

Discussion Questions

- What concerns you most about water issues?
- What is easy to change at home to save water?
- What can you do in the future to reduce water usage?



Conserve Water Outdoors – Watering

- Rain barrels and cisterns
- Efficient irrigation
 - Drip irrigation
 - Timed systems
- Use 'greywater'
 - From shower or washing machine
- Water the yard, not the street



<https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/protecting-our-environment/sustainability-tips/landscaping>

Conserve Water Outdoors – Watering

- Water when plants need it
 - Especially lawns
- Water when it is cool
- Deep soak



Conserve Water Outdoors – Plants

- Drought tolerant native landscaping
- Rain gardens
 - Replace lawns
- Plant microclimate zones for watering
- Water plants just enough
 - Outdoors and indoors
- Add mulch or compost



Conserve Water Outdoors – Be Careful

- Sweep sidewalks with brooms, not water
- Hose nozzle or shut-off valve
- Check on children



Conserve Water – Water at Work

- Education
 - Team meetings and more
- Signs
- Taps and toilets



Protect and Conserve Water – Go Big

- Buy less
- Clean-ups
 - Beach
 - Stream
 - Pond
- Don't dump
 - Oil, litter, plastic in the drain



Source: <http://www.carkeekpark.org/salmon-program-volunteers/>

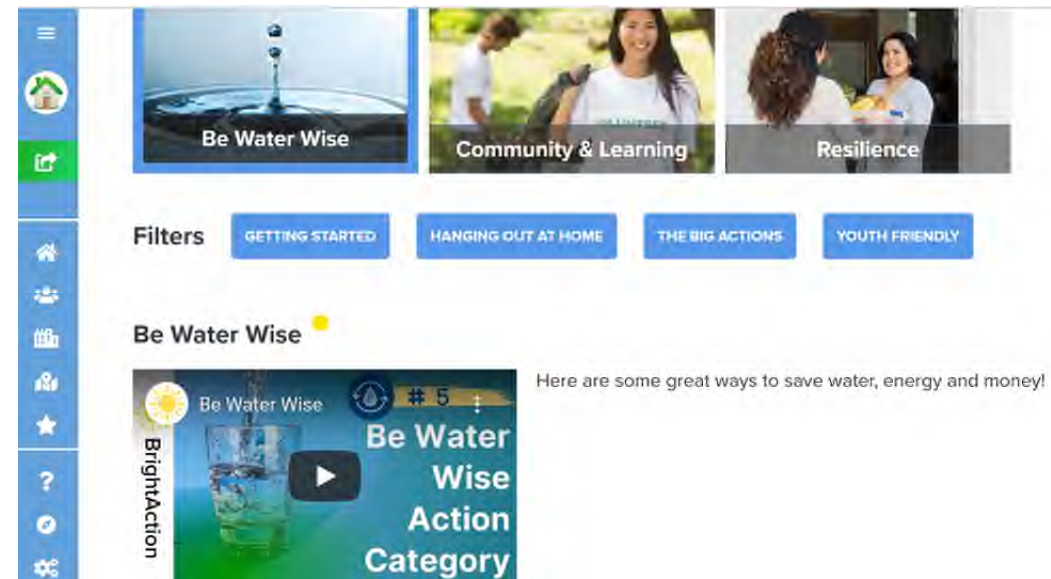
Review Your Water Bill

- Check usage
 - Look for leaks
- Track usage over time



Use the Carbon Tracker

- Carbon tracker
- St Mark's Community
- www.sustainislandhome.org



The screenshot displays the Sustain Island Home website interface. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with icons for home, a house, a group of people, a gift, a star, a question mark, a clock, and a gear. The main content area features three horizontal banners: 'Be Water Wise' (with a water tap icon), 'Community & Learning' (with a photo of a woman), and 'Resilience' (with a photo of two women). Below these is a 'Filters' section with four blue buttons: 'GETTING STARTED', 'HANGING OUT AT HOME', 'THE BIG ACTIONS', and 'YOUTH FRIENDLY'. The 'Be Water Wise' filter is selected, indicated by a yellow dot. Below the filters is a video player for 'Be Water Wise' with a play button and the text 'Be Water Wise Action Category'. To the right of the video player, the text reads: 'Here are some great ways to save water, energy and money!'.

Discussion or Breakout Session

- Discussion Questions
- How can you manage plants better indoors or outdoors?
- Can you make changes in the office?
- What can you do to go big?



Sharing and Q&A

- Sharing insights from breakout groups



Make a Difference

- “You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”



Photo by Stuart Clark



Closing Prayer

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: We thank you for the gift of water — the waters on the earth, and under the earth, the water above us, and within us. Make us mindful of the care of all the planet's water, that it may richly sustain life for us and for those who come after us; through Jesus Christ, source of living water. *Amen.*



Closing

- Closing prayer