

"Got Water?"

Vermont Drinking Water Week Student Fact Sheet 2012



- ◆ One ton of recycled paper saves 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil and 7000 gallons of water. *(Times Argus)*
- ◆ More people have a mobile phone than a toilet *(water.org)*
- ◆ People living in the slums often pay 5-10 times more per liter of water than wealthy people living in the same city. *(2006 UN Human Development Report)*
- ◆ An American taking a five-minute shower uses more water than a typical person in a developing country slum uses in a whole day. *(water.org)*
- ◆ Half of world's hospital beds are filled with people suffering from water related illness *(water.org)*
- ◆ The average person in the developing world uses 2.64 gallons of water a day. The average person in the United Kingdom uses 36 gallons of water per day. The average person living in the United States uses between 100 and 175 gallons per day at home. *(UN Development Program)*
- ◆ The UN estimates it would cost an additional \$30 billion to provide access to safe water to the entire planet. That's a third of what the world spends in a year on bottled water. *(CBS News, FLOW)*
- ◆ The cost per person per year for having 2.5 gallons of safe drinking water every day is just \$6 USD. *(Ashok Gadgil, Senior Staff Scientist in the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, FLOW)*
- ◆ Water is a \$400 billion dollar global industry; the third largest behind electricity and oil. *(CBS News, FLOW)*
- ◆ It takes almost 19 gallons of water to make a little more than ¼ gallon of bottled water.
- ◆ California's water supply is running out – it has about 20 years of water left in the state. *(Maude Barlow, author of Blue Covenant and co-author of Blue Gold, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, FLOW)*
- ◆ 70% of the world's fresh water is used for irrigation *(overpopulation.org)*
- ◆ World water demand has tripled over the past 50 years *(overpopulation.org)*

- ◆ 70% of the globe is covered by water, but most of it is saltwater. Desalinization can convert saltwater to freshwater, but it is only useful on coastlines and is 15 times more expensive than natural freshwater. (*overpopulation.org*)



- ◆ Housing developments in the Southwest USA have been stopped due to lack of water (*overpopulation.org*)
- ◆ Refining one gallon of ethanol required four gallons of water. It takes 2500 gallons of water to grow enough corn to refine one gallon of ethanol. (*overpopulation.org*)
- ◆ In a 100-year period, a water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, about 2 weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the atmosphere.
- ◆ A person pays about 25 cents for water use on a daily basis. If you drink your daily recommended 8 glasses of water per day from the tap, it will cost you about 50 cents per year. If you choose to drink it from purchased water bottles, it can cost you up to \$1,400 dollars.
- ◆ About 6,800 gallons of water is required to grow a day's food for a family of four.
- ◆ There are approximately one million miles of water pipeline and aqueducts in the United States and Canada, enough to circle Earth 40 times.
- ◆ In this country over 56,000 community public water systems process over 34 billion gallons of water a day.
- ◆ Vermont's high quality and sufficient quantity water supports much of our local economy from cows to chocolate; from furniture making to snow making; from microchips to cheese. Without these water supplies our economy and quality of life would suffer significantly.
- ◆ 2 Billion gallons of water are used each day to water golf courses in the United States. (*National Geographic*)

