

Clean Water Actions:

Conserve Water:

- Install low flow toilets or fill a plastic jug with water and place it in your toilet tank
- Take shorter showers or install water saver shower heads or share a shower
- Place a bucket on the shower floor to capture “warm up” water and use this to water plants
- Turn off the tap when you don’t need it
- Fix all leaks, stop all drips
- Only flush a toilet if you need to (if it is yellow, let it “mellow”)
- Wash your dishes in a full dishwasher rather than by hand

Educate:

- Educate yourself and others – Learn about our relationship with the natural environment. Share the abundant resources available online or in books.
- Community Mapping/Assessment – Conduct an investigation of environmental indicators in your community. Engage in air quality, water and soil testing and review weather patterns in your community.
- Listen to Town Elders – Narrative/storytelling plays a role in weaving oral histories that are critical to understanding not only changes in the community, but more importantly how these affect community members and your local way of life. Create a set of questions to ask elders about how they have observed changes in the community and how they have been impacted by these changes and shifts and what they have noticed changing in the social, cultural and economic fabric of the community.
- Each One Teach One: Take opportunities in conversation to raise awareness around the impacts of water pollution and access issues.
- Be the Change: There are many things we can each do to make a small contribution to collective aims toward sustainable living such as recycling, taking public transportation, carpooling and gardening.
- Join/Ally with an Organization: Organizations like the NAACP, the Girl/Boy Scouts of America, boys/girls clubs, schools, Sierra club, World Wildlife Federation, etc. are all implementing environmental and climate related initiatives you can join or support.
- Host a film Screening and Discussion: “Beasts of the Southern Wild” and “If God Is Willing and the Creek Don’t Rise” are examples of some films that would be excellent fodder for community discussions.

Advocate for Water

- Support replacement of lead pipes

- Test your water and have the water at your school/municipal buildings tested
- Support regulation of agricultural manure spreading
- Support limits on high capacity wells

World Water Monitoring Day:

- World Water Monitoring Day is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local waterways. Visit www.worldwatermonitoringday.org for more information.

Adopt a Watershed:

Find the waterway closest to your home, school or community center and follow along its perimeter to examine how it connects to other water sources. Visit www.epa.gov/adopt to participate in EPA's Adopt a Watershed program in your area

Tackle Trash:

- *Pick up Litter and dispose of it properly.*
- *(Remember : Debris in our waterways doesn't just fall from the sky; it falls from our own hands and eventually ends up in our lakes, rivers and oceans.)*
- *Take your commitment year-round – join local beach, river, or stream cleanups.*
- *Use reusable cloth bags for groceries and shopping instead of disposable plastic bags.*
- *If you come across a plastic holder for a six-pack of cans or bottles, cut the plastic rings apart and dispose of them properly.*
- *Use reusable or biodegradable food and beverage containers rather than using Styrofoam or plastic containers.*
- *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – and avoid products with excessive packaging.*
- *Talk “trash” with your friends and family – spread the word about the trashing of our waterways!*

Reduce Pollution

- *Know what goes down the drain. Remind family members to dispose of car oil, engine fluids, cleaners, medicines, or household chemicals in safe ways. Find approved motor oil and household chemical recycling or disposal facilities near your home and tell people about them (announce take back days in your church bulletin or newsletter).*
- *Recycle or refurbish electronic devices. Check out www.earth911.com for facts and resources. Go to www.wireflytradeins.com to turn your old cell phones, game consoles, and electronics for cash or donations to your favorite nonprofit organizations.*