

ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS FOR KIDS



*Turn off
that tap!*





Boy, parents are a pain, aren't they? Always nagging you to "Turn off the lights", "Make sure you turn off that tap", and a bunch of other stuff.






We hate to tell you this, but they are right! Wasting water and electricity not only wastes money, but it wastes our natural resources too. The more energy we use, the greater the demand on our power suppliers.

From the page on Water Facts, we have seen that only 1% of all the water in the world is available to be used as drinking water. Although this water keeps getting recycled through the Earth's ecosystem, once that water is polluted, it is hard to get it back to a useable state.

Stratford has a unique water system... We use water which comes from artesian wells, deep under the ground. Let's help to protect our water so that there will be enough for everyone!

Here are a few things that you can do at home to help save water and electrical power, as well as helping to keep our water system pure for drinking:

-  When brushing your teeth, rinse the brush in short bursts of water instead of leaving the water running. This can save a LOT of water.
-  Even a little drip can waste lots of water. When you are finished using the sink be sure that you REALLY turn off that tap. (This also helps you develop those muscles!) If the tap leaks, ask your mom or dad to replace the washer. (The washer is a little seal inside the tap that keeps it from leaking.)
-  When you take showers, make sure they are short ones (less than 8 minutes). Taking a short shower can use less water than taking a bath. However, taking a shallow bath uses less water than taking a long shower. Next time you take a shower, time yourself and try leaving the plug in the drain and see just exactly how much water you are using. If the tub overflows, that's WAY too much!!!!
-  Walk over to the toilet and listen to the tank. Do you hear a hissing sound? If you do, you have a leaky valve! Ask your mom or dad to fix it... a leaky toilet can waste hundreds, even thousands of gallons of water.

-  In the summer, instead of running the tap for a long time until the water gets cold enough to drink, keep a nice cold jug of water in the fridge. (Ice cubes cool off a drink quickly too!)
-  While waiting for tap water to get hot, catch it in a jug or bucket to use for watering plants.
-  If you like to play in the sprinklers in the summertime, do it only when your parents are going to water the lawn anyway! Better yet, fill up a wading pool to cool off instead and use the water on the garden or to wash the car afterwards.
-  It uses less water to wash the car with a bucket of soapy water than with the spray from a garden hose. Just use the hose for your final rinse.
-  To clean your driveway or walks, sweep them instead of spraying them down with a hose.

Here are some other ways to help the environment:

Did you know that in Stratford, all the water that flows into the rain gutters and catch basins flows directly into the Avon River? This water, unlike the water we flush down the drains in our homes, does not go to the Waste Water Treatment plant. This is a very good reason not to pour waste household chemicals or other hazardous materials into the storm drains. Just one gallon of gasoline allowed to flow into a storm drain can contaminate 750,000 gallons of water! It's also not a good idea to pour chemicals like these into household drains or flush them down the toilet.

Likewise, chemicals poured into the ground and those that end up in landfills, even if they are in a container, pollute the water table. Be sure you dispose of household hazardous chemicals properly, not by putting them in your trash or pouring them down the drains. The City periodically has Hazardous Household Waste drop-offs. Call the City of Stratford to find out when the next drop-off will take place, and ask your family to take these items to the dump for safe disposal.