You Can Be a Water Steward

Fresh, clean water is a limited resource, yet the demand for water continues to increase. Whether at home or work, in our communities or businesses, everyone can take action to conserve and protect water. Here are some ways you can contribute:

**Take Shorter Showers**
The average eight-minute shower uses more than 16 gallons of water. Install a low-flow showerhead and try limiting showers to three minutes or less.

**Fill It Up**
Standard top-loading washing machines use 30-35 gallons a load. Only run your washer with full loads and consider investing in a high-efficiency washer.

**Soak Up the Rain**
The average roof collects 600 gallons for every inch of rain. Installing a rain barrel at your workplace, school or home can help reduce stormwater runoff, and the rainwater can be used to water plants or wash the car.

**Create a Less-Thirsty Yard**
More than half of outdoor water use is for watering lawns and gardens. Choose native or drought-tolerant plants that can thrive with minimal help from fertilizers and pesticides.

**Lose the Leaks**
A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip a minute can waste more than 3,000 gallons a year. Fix leaks and install low-flow faucets to save water and reduce water bills.

**Eat Your Vegetables**
Research shows that switching to a more plant-based diet can cut your water footprint in half. Introduce more plant-based foods into your diet to lower your environmental impact.

**Plant Trees**
Trees and forests help reduce stormwater runoff. Volunteer your time in a local tree-planting effort.

**Dip into Volunteer Water Monitoring**
Learn about the water resources in your community, and train as a volunteer water monitor. Help build local stewardship of the waterways near you.

**Ask for an Audit**
Conduct a third-party water audit for your business to track water usage and improve operational efficiency.