

Community Partners for Clean Streams Monthly eMonitor



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Up Front

The eMonitor is designed to keep our Partners and friends updated on CPCS, stormwater management issues, provide helpful information to reduce stormwater and nonpoint source pollution, recognize new Partners, highlight upcoming events, and create networking opportunities. We hope you enjoy each edition of the Monthly eMonitor and welcome any comments, concerns, or suggestions.

Water Conservation

Spring and summer are synonymous with water based activities here in Michigan. Boating, fishing, kayaking and swimming are all activities we look forward to. The Great Lakes is one place where clean drinking water is plentiful and may seem unlimited. However, this is a resource that must be protected and we can start right here at our businesses and homes!

As the warm weather months are upon us, please consider ways to conserve water. There are many simple actions that businesses and homeowners can take to reduce water use and potentially contaminating the water they do. Some of these actions include simply reducing water use around the office and landscape and "recycling" water with the use of rain barrels.

Conserving water will also have an effect on your bottom line – using less water means saving money on your water bill! Protecting the environment and our natural resources are beneficial to both the earth and your bottom line. This issue of the eMonitor explores small changes you, your colleagues and your business can take to conserve water.



Indoor Water Use

There are many ways to save water around the office and at home. Conservative use of water is always the best policy. Included on this page are many tips that you can use indoors to reduce your water usage and save you money on your water bill. Track your water bill to look for the volume of water and money you save!



Water Saving Tips

- **Turn off the Tap:** One of the easiest ways to conserve water indoors is to turn off the tap while washing hands, dishes or brushing teeth. The faucet can waste 3-5 gallons a minute.
- **Hang up Signs:** in the bathroom and kitchen area of your workplace to remind everyone to turn off the tap. CPCS can provide customized signs for your business – see the example at right and contact us for more information!
- **Check for Leaks:** in your toilets, faucets and sinks. Repairs can save hundreds of gallons of water a year!
- **Consider replacing old faucets, shower heads and toilets with low-flow versions.** Aerators can also reduce water flow.
- **Only run full loads of laundry and dishes.**
- **Use left over water from water bottles and other light washing duties to water your lawn or garden.**
- **Wash vehicles on the lawn so the wash water is not wasted or directed down the storm drain.**
- **Insulate water pipes to reduce the amount of time it takes for water to “heat up”.**
- **Don’t use the toilet as a frequent trash can.** One flush can use 5-7 gallons of water!

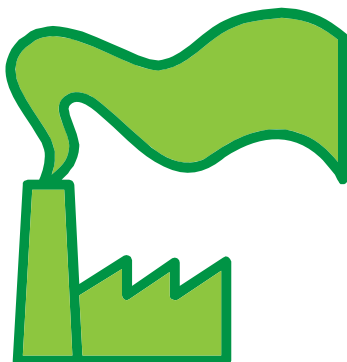
Water Footprint

Similar to the “carbon footprint” discussed in the media, we all have a “water footprint” as well. There are several websites that take into account the many ways in which we use water in our lives both directly and indirectly through product processing and manufacturing. Businesses can create incentives to reduce water footprints and encourage participation by employees.

Two of the resources to calculate your water footprint are:

<http://www.waterfootprint.org>

<http://www.h2oconserve.org>



Reducing Water Use at your Facility

In addition to the many kitchen and bathroom water saving actions that your employees can take, you may also want to consider other ways to save water at your facility. Many industrial processes require water for cooling or manufacturing, so consider ways to reduce or reuse the “waste” water. This will save money and help conserve water!

Landscaping and Outdoor Water Use

Outdoor water use for maintaining landscapes is one of the largest sources of water waste. There are many activities that can take place at the office and at home to conserve water outdoors. This page discusses many of the options available for you to consider.

Sprinkler Systems

- Sprinklers should be programmed to turn on in the morning and evening hours to minimize evaporation in the midday sun.
- Use a rain gauge to determine when the landscape needs to be watered.
- Periodically inspect the sprinkler heads to determine if they are directed at the landscape rather than the street or parking lot.
- Soaker hoses work well for flower beds and vegetable gardens; they allow water to seep slowly in to the ground and be adsorbed.
- Water your lawn infrequently and for longer periods of time to assist in creating “deep roots” for your lawn.



Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are an excellent way to prevent stormwater from entering the nearest waterway. It is kept on the land and naturally filtered through the plants and soils. Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner’s Office has resources available to assist homeowners and businesses with rain gardens in their own yards. Contact Harry Sheehan at 734-222-6851 or sheehan@ewashtenaw.org for more information. You may also visit the rain gardens website ewashtenaw.org/raingardens for example gardens and plants.

Rain Barrels

One easy way to divert stormwater from entering local waterways and conserving water in your landscape is to install rain barrels at downspouts around your business or home. The water from your rooftop can then be collected and used to water your garden and outdoor landscape. They are easy to install and are available in many styles and sizes to fit your aesthetic and landscape needs. Rain barrels can be bought at most local garden centers or online.



<http://www.rainbarrelguide.com/>

Carefully Choose Landscape Materials and Design

The design of your landscape and the types of plants and materials you choose to enhance it can have a positive affect on water quality and conservation efforts.

- Choosing native plants that require little to no watering reduces the amount water necessary to maintain your landscape.
- Consider reducing the amount of grass in your landscape and replacing with native plants or rain gardens; this can also dramatically reduce the amount of water necessary for up keep.
- Reduce the amount of impervious pavement for your facility and home to decrease the amount of stormwater that is contaminated by activities on site.



<http://www.prairienursery.com>

CPCS News

New Community Partners

Welcome to our new partners over the last few months and thank you to our renewed ones. Together we can make a difference to keep Washtenaw County's waterways clean!

New Partners

500 South Main Street

College Heights

Horiba

King of Kings Lutheran Church

Nature Cove/Kramer Triad Management

Tower Plaza/Kramer Triad Management

VA Ann Arbor Health Care System

Woods of Ann Arbor/Kramer Triad Management



Renewing Partners

Briarwood Mall

Cleary University

EPA - NVFEL

Industrial Tectonics, Inc.

Nichols Arboretum

Upcoming CPCS Events

Rouge River Rescue/Johnson Creek Day: Saturday, June 7, 2008,

Ann Arbor Green Fair: Friday, June 13, 2008, 6:00 – 9:00 pm. The 8th annual Mayor's Green Fair will take place on Main Street between Huron and William. For more info visit: www.a2gov.org/green

Huron River Days: Sunday, July 13, 2008, 12:00 – 4:00 pm. This annual event is great for the whole family! Stay tuned for more information next month.

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Contact Us

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