

“A Conversation with Greenable Woodbridge”... Why Conserve Water?

Why should I try to conserve water?

Do you ever find yourself asking that question? Woodbridge residents live in a very water rich area and are not likely to face severe water shortages. The water we save isn't going to be shipped off somewhere else where people need it. So why bother? Is there any point to conserving water here in Woodbridge?

Yes, there is.

New Jersey is a densely populated state, and the wide-spread development associated with that places a great deal of stress on the local water system. These water systems, or watersheds, are represented by the land area in which all water drains off to a common water body. Woodbridge Township is part of the Arthur Kill Watershed, which means that our water use, particularly outdoors, impacts the health of this watershed. In the month of September Greenable Woodbridge will go into more detail about watershed health, stormwater management, and pollution prevention.

For now, let's just consider how we use water in our day to day lives. To get a good benchmark for how you use water, check out this quick **Water Footprint Calculator** which shows you how you compare to the average American use of 1,190 gallons of water per day. Greenable Woodbridge answered the questions and got a per-person result of approximately 1,136 gallons of water per day - which shows we room to improve on water conservation.

With a conscious effort, conserving water is something we can all accomplish. We can do this with a simple series of behavioral changes and efficiency upgrades, and although this is a worthwhile endeavor simply for the relief it will give our local environment, that's not the only reason to conserve. Next week, Greenable Woodbridge will go over ways to conserve water inside the home. Then we will look at conserving water that we use outside. Although the conservation efforts Greenable Woodbridge will highlight serve to further protect our environment, there is also a much more pragmatic reason for doing so. For every gallon of water you do not use, it is one less gallon of water you have to pay for. These simple behavioral changes and efficiency upgrades can save you money, and in the final post of this month, we will go over how significant those savings can be.

In the meantime, Greenable Woodbridge encourages you to view a video developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection - "WATER: A Matter of Importance." The video shows the State's leading experts discuss New Jersey's water supply and the need for conservation:

https://youtu.be/jF_cagVpe5I