

Have you helped the environment today?

2013: International Year of Water Cooperation



The United Nations has many days, weeks, years, decades and anniversaries that it and its member observe. These events are created in order to help with achieve the purposes' of the UN Charter, and to help raise awareness of and action for important issues (political social, cultural, humanitarian or human rights). The first International Year took place in 1959 with World Refugee Year.

In December of 2010 the UN General Assembly made 2013 the International Year of Water Cooperation. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the possible increase of cooperation as well as creating awareness of the challenges water management has due to an increased demand for water in terms of access, allocation, and services. The history of successful initiatives of water cooperation will be highlighted, along with certain issues such as water education, and water diplomacy. Finally the International Year of Water Cooperation will help the creation of truly sustainable water resources.

Why is Water Important?

While it seems like Earth has an endless amount of water, 97% of the Earth's surface being covered with it., less than 1% of all water on Earth is drinkable. This small amount of drinkable water is not spread evenly over the entire world either. For instance the ten top countries for freshwater supply contain 60% of the world's freshwater supply. This means that those who have a large amount of water need to make sure that they are careful with the amount of water they have. One person in North America can use more water in 5 minutes than one person living in less than favourable conditions uses in a day.

Having clean water to drink is important because of all the diseases that can be found in dirty water. There are already 884 million people without access to clean water and roughly 3.5 million people die from water related diseases every year. If we do not ensure that the water we have stays clean we run the risk of even more.



How can I help?

We can all help by ensuring that there is enough water to go around. You can do this by making sure you do not waste water. Some tips to help reduce your amount of wasted water are:



~Take a short shower. Only stay in the shower as long as it takes you to wash. If you are someone who like to take a long time lathering up turn off the water. You can turn it on again once you are ready for a rinse.

~Reduce the amount of lawn watering. Your lawn only needs 2.5cm of water a week, including rainwater, which is generally 2 hours of watering from your sprinkler

~Use a broom instead of a hose to clean off sidewalks and driveways.