Using Water Responsibly - Support Package

Calculating Your Water Footprint

Most of us understand the importance of not wasting water: turn off the tap when brushing your teeth, take shorter showers, and water the garden during the cooler hours of the day. But did you know that these are not the only ways we consume water? In reality, the majority of water we consume doesn't come from a tap at all! It is used indirectly by our clothing, fuel, and most importantly, food.

This support package will help students understand the impact of their consumption choices and how they can reduce their water footprint. The links provided could be used as you see fit, for example, as part of a broader unit on water, or as a school-wide awareness campaign. The action plan below will assist in calculating the water footprint of each student. The average Canadian consumes 6,400L/day! Help your students to understand their needs vs. wants when it comes to water consumption. An initiative could accompany this lesson, such as developing a plan for reducing the number of plastic water bottles at school.

Action Plan

http://waterfootprint.org/en/water-footprint/what-is-water-footprint/

Step 1- Check out the Using Water Responsibly slideshow from the Green Schools website. There's one version for grades primary - two and another for grades six and up. On the "Water to Produce Foods" slide, ask students to guess how many litres of water are needed to produce each of the products on the slide. Use the Water Footprint Calculator with your students to determine their average yearly water use.

Step 2- Explore the Water Footprint Network website to familiarize yourself with the idea of a water footprint. Find out how much water is needed to produce a variety of items within the Product Gallery section of this website.

Step 3- Decide what you, your students, or your school can do to reduce your water footprint at home or school. Make a personal pledge to help the Earth by reducing your water footprint. There are two options: if time allows, ask students to trace their feet and write down one way they can reduce their water footprint. If time is tight, take the pledge using the sample sheet below. Display the pledges in your school to help teach others that water is precious.

Step 4- Take the next step and start a project to conserve water! You can reduce the number of disposable plastic water bottles used by fundraising to install a water bottle refill station at your school. You may want to make a series of awareness posters to place around the school. A great additional project is for students to keep track of everything they eat for a whole day and use the Product Gallery to estimate how many litres of water were used to produce each meal. These lessons can include math links: keep track of your food consumption for a week and calculate the average water consumption per day! If you're feeling ambitious you could seek to work with your school cafeteria to increase healthy vegetarian meal options because vegetables consume far less water than meat.

Resources

Green Schools NS Drought & Desertification Support Package
Green Schools NS Water Bottle Refill Station Support Package
Green Schools NS World Wetlands Day Support Package
Green Schools NS World Water Day Support Package

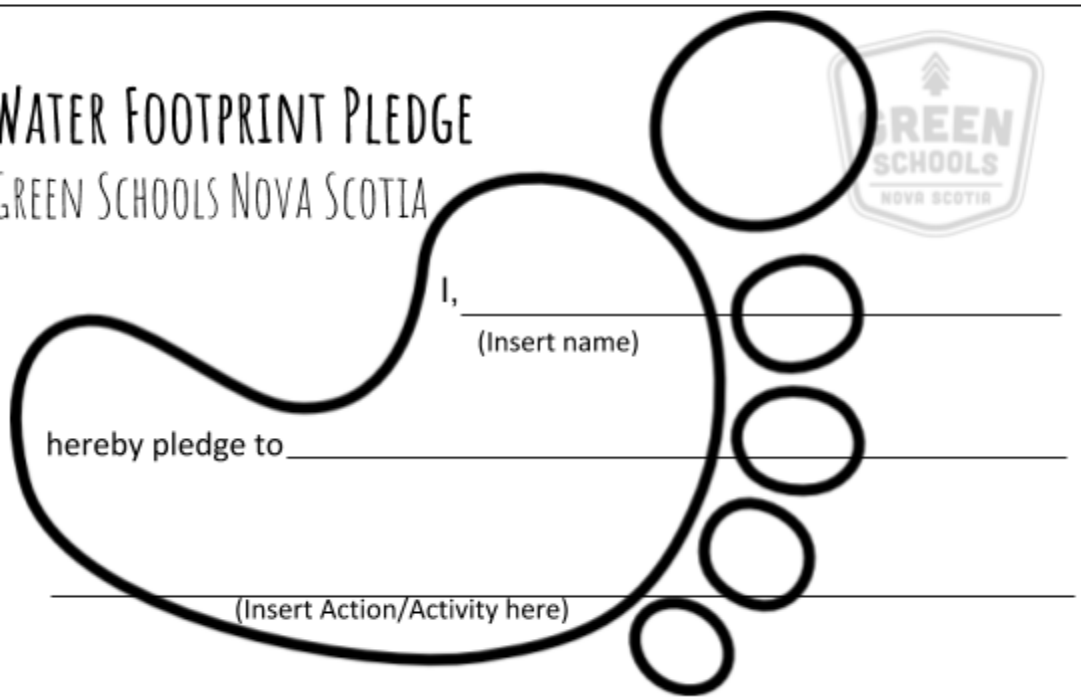
The Water We Eat: Discover Your Virtual Water Footprint
Ontario Eco-Schools: Water Awareness and Action Campaign Kit
Classroom Energy Diet Challenge: Water Works
Water Bottle Refill Station Supplier - Global Industrial
World Water Day
World Wetlands Day
World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought

Videos
The Story of Stuff Project: Bottled Water
Water Rocks: We All Live in a Watershed
WWF Canada: What's Your Water Footprint?
WonderGrove Kids: Save Water to Help the Earth

Book
Why Should I Save Water - by Jen Green

Water Footprint Pledge

Green Schools Nova Scotia



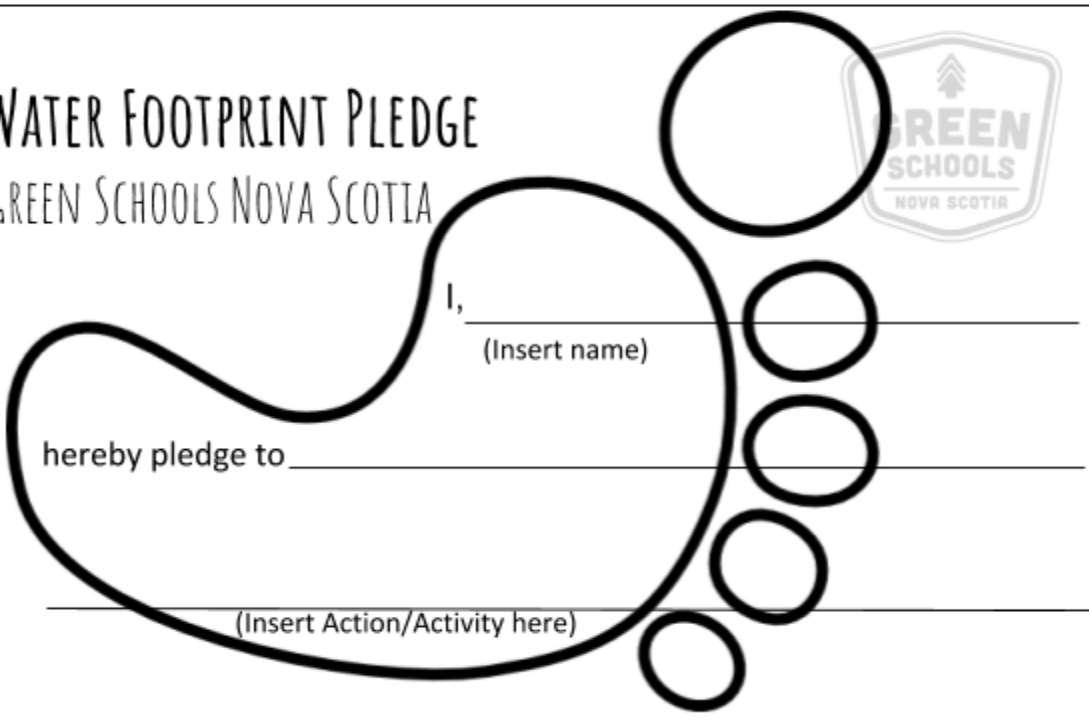
I, _____
(Insert name)

hereby pledge to _____

_____
(Insert Action/Activity here)

Water Footprint Pledge

Green Schools Nova Scotia



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