



WATER: TODAY & TOMORROW



SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR WATER RESOURCES IS INFLUENCED BY THE ACTIONS WE TAKE IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES.

This section is intended to further students' understanding of Greater Victoria's current water use and how we will use water into the future. Many things influence how we use water – our everyday actions, the types of technologies we use, and the value we place on water. Water conservation, water (use) efficiency, and global water use are important concepts explored further in this section.

One of the ways we can conserve water is by using water more efficiently; this means reducing its use in order to protect the resource now and for the future. Using water wisely will reduce health risks, lower water bills, and extend the useful life of existing water supply reservoirs and sewage treatment facilities. Increased efficiency expands the possible uses of the water resource, accommodating population growth, new industry, fire fighting, environmental conservation and protection, and cultural practices/lifestyles/livelihoods. Water efficiency programs emphasize day-to-day improvements in water use that bring about lasting results.

Water availability with respect to climate change is a critical issue in Greater Victoria and throughout B.C. Climate change may affect Greater Victoria with an increased average air temperature which could lead to an increased demand for water, especially in the summer. This is coupled with predicted drier summers and increases in precipitation intensity during the winter months. Understanding weather patterns and how weather data is collected and used is important to the understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on our water supply.

Throughout the world, water use has increased dramatically over the last century due to population growth, industrial uses, and new technologies that enable us to take water from non-traditional sources. Water use per person varies greatly from country to country and depends on water availability, technologies, standard of living, and water use habits.

Finally, communication about local water issues and people brings the issue of water up-front and "personal". There are many forums to communicate about water, ranging from public media (magazines, newspaper, websites, radio, TV, etc.) to public or community meetings. Water can bring us together in many ways!

THIS SECTION CONTAINS FIVE ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENT LEARNING:

- *Water Today and Tomorrow*
- *Water and Climate Change*
- *New Ways for Water Efficiency*
- *Design a Native Plant Garden*
- *The Water News*

