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WATERWISE

WATER CONSERVATION 2009

It is surprising how much water touches almost every aspect of our lives. We read about carbon footprints, i.e., the amount of green house gases caused directly and indirectly by individuals, organizations, events or by the products we use. And now we are learning about our water footprint.

According to The Water Footprint Network, "The water footprint of an individual is defined as the total amount of freshwater that is used to produce the goods and services consumed by the individual."

How do we measure up? The average American consumes 1,190 gallons of water a day. How about you? There is an easy calculator on H2OConserve.org for computing the amount of water you consume. The categories are quite extensive: country, dietary habits, driving habits, indoor water use and outdoor water use. It seems there isn't any place in our lives that doesn't involve water.

Because of these interconnections, it can be overwhelming to try and reduce our carbon and water footprints. To make it easier to reduce your water footprint, this publication will give you suggestions on how to be more efficient with the water used in your home, on your property and at your business.

HOW MANY GALLONS OF WATER DOES IT TAKE TO PRODUCE THINGS THAT YOU EAT EVERY DAY? YOU'LL BE SURPRISED!



It takes 1,400 gallons of water to make a meal containing a hamburger, french fries and a soft drink!



It takes 3 gallons of water to grow/produce a tomato.

It takes 14 gallons of water to grow / produce a single orange.

It takes 150 gallons of water to grow/produce one loaf of bread.

A dairy cow must drink 4 gallons of water to produce one gallon of milk.

It takes 120 gallons of water to produce one egg.

It takes 16½ gallons of water to manufacture a 12-ounce can of soft drink

Source: US Environmental Protection Agency



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The Water Footprint Network

WANT TO KNOW IF YOU HAVE A LEAK? READ YOUR METER!

Knowing how to read your meter is the best way to discover hidden leaks. Your meter is probably located at your property line near the street. Look for a rectangular box lid. Inside of that is your meter. If your meter and your neighbors' meter are side by side, yours is the closest to your home. The meter can be read like an odometer. On it you will notice numbers 1-10 with each number representing a gallon. For the meter to register 10 gallons the red hand must do a completer rotation. If water isn't

being used on the property and the meter is turning - you have a leak! - Courtesy of Pueblo Del Sol Water Company