



Be A Teenage “Green-ager”... **Make A New Year’s Resolution to Use Water Wisely!**

Soon it will be 2009! This could be **YOUR** year -- when YOU can *finally* get YOUR driver's license...when YOU enter high school...when you get to pursue YOUR dream. Maybe this is a year that YOU have a special feeling about -- that the next 12 months will be when YOU get to accomplish YOUR thing. It is exciting to be on the edge of tomorrow, with your whole future ahead of you. So this is a good time to really think about what is important to you...now and in the future.

Regardless of your chosen path, you are becoming more and more of an active player in the environment in which we all live. YOU do -- and will continue to -- make a difference. YOUR wise use of water will help make life better for all living creatures. YOUR actions play a role in whether or not there is enough water to go around. YOUR behaviors and values will set examples for the younger kids, so it is

especially important that YOU understand that the **stewardship** of water is critical.

Combining a commitment to things that are important to you with the change of the calendar year is an old tradition. For hundreds of years, people all over the world have coupled their desires to make change happen with the arrival of a new year -- calling these ‘commitments’ New Year's Resolutions.

So, isn't this a great time for YOU to join in the New Year's Resolution tradition by pledging to help conserve our most valuable resource...**water**? It isn't difficult to do; in fact, most water conservation measures are just plain common sense. This is something your whole family can do, every day. Give it a try.

Cut out the two graphics below -- or make your own “Resolution Reminders”. Put one on your bathroom mirror and the other in your kitchen. These little messages can help keep you on track. ■

USE WATER WISELY IN THE BATHROOM... Don't waste money down the drain!

- ◆ Take shorter showers!
- ◆ Don't leave the water running while you brush your teeth.
- ◆ Tell a parent about leaky faucets and ‘running’ toilets -- fixing them can save thousands of gallons of water!
- ◆ Don't use the toilet as a trash can...flush only when necessary.



USE WATER WISELY IN THE KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY ROOM

- ◆ Report a leaky faucet...a dripping faucet can waste more water in a single day than a person needs for drinking in a week!
- ◆ Run dishwasher and washing machines with full loads only.
- ◆ Use disposal sparingly, it uses a lot of water to operate. Consider composting food scraps.

