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# Sustainability Education Is The Key To Proper Water Use And Management

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### **Sustainability Education Is The Key To Proper Water Use And Management**

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### Sustainability Education Is The Key To Proper Water Use And Management

To date, the U.S. has a history of spending tremendous amounts of governmental funding and administrative time in reacting to droughts, addressing regulatory matters, handling water quality crises, and meeting supply-demand issues within local municipal water systems. While these topics are certainly relevant, too little resources have been directed toward water education. As a result, the citizenry is ill-equipped to manage its own water use, let alone participate in the development of water policy. Water education is not merely a brochure left with the homeowners, but rather an ongoing conversation among districts, governmental bodies, and citizens. Unfortunately, water education is no more prevalent in our education system than it is in our communities. For those schools that have any water education at all, it is often limited to a single lesson covering general principles of water as a natural resource. To be effective, water education deserves far more time and attention than a one-day event in primary school; water and sustainability should become an interdisciplinary method of instruction and value-creation throughout the K-12 education system. The only way we can assure proper water use and management is to empower citizens and students to become more proactive; and the best way to do that is to develop educational tools that make water and sustainability relevant to everyday life. This expanded education will not require a complete curriculum overhaul; but instead, water sustainability can be integrated into existing K-12 education programs. In addition, neighborhood centers, homeowner associations, and water districts can work together to create a dialogue that informs the citizenry about important issues within their communities. Only an impassioned and informed general public will assure an ample and safe water supply for the future.