

Background

The aim of this programme is to raise awareness within the Amajuba District Municipality jurisdiction about the importance of water in social and economic development. This includes the need to encourage citizens to change their attitudes towards water use and water conservation as well as health and hygiene.

Purpose

The campaign will emphasize on waterborne diseases, precautions and most importantly water loss as one of the major problem this District is facing. There should be interventions that will guarantee current and future water security and availability for the District, Province and the country as a whole . The interventions should include teaching of communities and raising of awareness about water conservation and water demand management. The interventions should also highlight the centrality of water as an important resource in the well-being of both the environment (including animal species) and human beings

1. In the House

Discover some simple, everyday tips to conserve water at home.

Never let the tap run!

Why let the tap run just because you want a cold drink of water when you could keep a jug in the fridge and have a cool glass whenever you want it.

Beware of taps that leak...

Leaky taps waste water so if you see or hear one tells someone! - And make sure it gets fixed.

Spend less time bathing!

Spend less time in the shower. A power shower will use over 125 litres in less than five minutes (a bath takes 80 litres of water).

Use your head - use a bucket!

A running hose will use about 9 litres of water per minute. So the next time you're washing the family car remember that it will be just as clean using a bucket of water and a sponge - and it'll be more fun too.

Don't be mean if your clothes aren't clean!

A typical Washing Machine on full cycle uses up to 45 litres of water, which means that it should only ever go on when it's full. So remember - even if you have to wait sometimes for your favourite clothes to get washed you'll be helping to conserve water. A dishwasher uses 20 litres.

Try to only use your appliances when you have a full load. You'll save money and conserve water.

Use a basin to wash your fruit and vegetables

Instead of letting the tap run, use a basin to wash your fruits and vegetables. You could also water your plants with the leftover water.

Don't abuse it - re-use it.

If there's a basin in your sink (and there should be) don't spill it out when it's full - use it to water the plants in the garden after washing your dishes.

Don't leave the tap running while brushing your teeth

A running tap will dispense up to 6 litres of water a minute. Don't leave it running while shaving, brushing your teeth or washing your hands.

Know how to turn off your water supply.

This could save thousands of litres of water as well as damage to your home in the event of a pipe burst.

Hot Drinks

Fill the kettle with enough for your needs, not to the brim. It saves energy too.

Spread the word

Tell everyone how important it is to save water - and how easy it is to do! As our country grows there is also a growing demand on our water supply. In order for us all to enjoy our precious reserves we need to be more aware of water conservation.

It's surprising to know that the average daily water consumption per person in South Africa is over 148 litres! We can reduce the amount we use quite simply, by following these straightforward tips. Water is a precious resource. Don't waste it!

2.Tips for the Garden

Find out how to conserve water in the garden

Grass

Grass can survive for long periods without water and will quickly recover when the next rain showers arrive. Raising the lawnmower blades to a higher level will help stop the grass from scorching in warm weather. Leaving the clippings on the lawn will protect the roots and returns nutrients to the soil.

Watering Cans

If you have to water do so in the early morning or in the evening when it is cooler. Forget the hosepipe and always use a watering can. Make sure the Rose Head is fitted to your watering can.

Compost

Recycle your green kitchen waste in a compost bin. Compost provides valuable nutrients and keeps the soil moist.

Don't Hose that Path

Paths, patios and driveways must never be hosed. Use a yard brush, a rake or an outdoor blower for cleaning. If you must use water, use a pressure washer.

Mulches

Using mulch such as wood chips, bark or gravel will help prevent water evaporation and will suppress weed growth saving water and time weeding. These are especially valuable for shrubs, flowerbeds and new plantings.

Collect Rainwater

Rainwater is excellent for your garden. Collect it in a water container fed from your gutters but always make sure to securely cover large containers for safety. Never use a sprinkler system in your garden.

Spot those Leaks

Regularly check your outdoor taps, pipes and plumbing fixtures for leaks.

Reuse Water

Use a basin in your sink when washing dishes and reuse the water afterwards for your garden plants.

Trees, Shrubs and Plants

Plant flowers and shrubs that like warm and dry conditions. Your local garden centre can give you advice. Established trees and shrubs do not need to be watered.

3.Burst Pipe?

What to do if a pipe bursts.

Who do I call if I notice a burst pipe?

Call the Amajuba District Municipality for the water main and the pipe that connects the main to your meter or stopcock. If you notice a burst pipe on public lands or roadway please report it to water services on 034-3297200. The pipe running from your meter or stopcock to your property is your responsibility as either the owner or occupier. Ring your local plumber as your pressure will deteriorate and the loss of water will affect others in your area.

Why should you repair the leak?

- *Water leaks could damage property*
- *Water leaks cause unnecessary stress to the environment*
- *Water leaks may affect others in your community*
- *Water is a scarce commodity and should be conserved by all means necessary*

4.How we supply your water

Read below about the three ways in which we supply water

Water in South Africa is supplied in 4 ways:

- *public water supply schemes*
- *group water schemes*
- *individual private wells*
- *Water tankers and Jojo Tanks.*

The water supplied to the majority of homes and schools originates from the rivers and dams. This water is then extracted and pumped to a treatment plant where it is made potable (suitable to drink). From the treatment plant it is pumped to service reservoirs and then distributed to the properties by extensive pipe network systems.

a). Public Water Supply

At present, about 90% of the Country's population is served by public water supply schemes.

b) Group Water Schemes

The Group Water Schemes in South Africa play a smaller role in the delivery of water especially in the rural parts of the county. Almost 2% of population depend on private group water schemes for their water supply.

c) Private Wells

Some properties including households have private wells that take water directly from underground sources known as aquifers. This water is not pre-treated and any polluting substances such as oil, sewage or fertilizers can affect the quality of this water, rendering it unsuitable for consumption. About 8% of properties use water extracted from private wells

d) Water tankers

Some households getting from Jojo tanks which are supplied by water tankers.

5. Quick tips

Discover some simple, everyday tips to conserve water.

Be a leaky tap detective!

Leaky taps waste water so if you see or hear one in your school or at home make sure to report it someone and make sure it gets fixed.

Spend less time washing!

Spend less time in the shower. A power shower will use over 125 litres in less than five minutes (a bath takes 80 litres of water).

Use your head - use a bucket!

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Use a basin to wash your fruit and vegetables.

Instead of letting the tap run, use a basin to wash your fruit and vegetables. Why not use the leftover water to give your pot plants a drink?

Don't abuse it. Re-use it!

If there's a basin in your sink (and there should be) don't spill it out when it's full, use it to water the plants in the garden. But don't forget to ask an adult first!

Keep a jug of water in the fridge.

Instead of letting the tap run for cold water, fill a jug of water and keep it in the fridge.

Don't leave the tap running while brushing your teeth.

A running tap will dispense up to 6 litres of water a minute. Don't leave it running while shaving or washing your hands.

Know how to turn off your water supply.

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Spread the word

Tell everyone how important it is to save water - and how easy it is to do so! As our country grows there is also a growing demand on our water supply systems and sources. In order for us all to enjoy our precious scarce reserves we need to be more aware of water conservation. It's surprising to know that the average daily water consumption per person in South Africa is over 148 litres! We can reduce the amount we use quite simply, by following these straightforward tips. Water is a precious and scarce resource. Let's conserve it.

6. How much water we use

Why we now consume more water than we ever did

How much water do we use?

On average, each of us use about 148 litres of water per day, through the use of baths and showers, drinking, cooking, washing clothes, cleaning the car and watering the gardens. Our

lifestyles have changed and the population has grown. Consequently, we now consume more water than we ever did.

1 litre of water weighs 1 kilogramme. This means that in 1 year the average person uses over 54 tonnes of water!!!

Average daily water consumption per person

Activity	Amount of water (litres)
Shower	35
W.C.	27
Laundry Wash	40
Hand wash	12
Teeth Brushing	12
Dish wash	10
Cooking	10
Drinking	2
Total	148

Average Water Use

Activity	Amount of water (litres)
Bath	80
5 Minute Shower	35
Power Shower	125 in less than 5 minutes
Brushing teeth with tap running	6 per minute
Brushing teeth with tap off	1
W.C. Flush standard	9
W.C. Flush modern	6
Washing machine modern	45
Washing machine	65
Dishwasher	20
Washing car with Bucket	10
Hosepipe	9 per minute

7. How to detect a water leaks

Is there a water leak at your home?

How to detect a leak

Is there a water leak at your school?

How much water was used overnight?

Find out where the school water meter is.

Read the meter in the evening and Read the meter again in the morning.

Evening reading:

Morning reading:

If there is a large difference there may be a leaking pipe.

How much water you use?

Read the meter at the same time each week.

Reading 1:

Reading 2:

How much water have you used each day?

(Reading 2 - Reading 1) / 7 = daily water usage



Pipes will be replaced in areas with persistent high leakage and poor response to repair activities.

Why is my water supply shut off?

An improved water supply is our goal but temporary disruptions to local water supplies will occur to facilitate essential works which include;

- *Fitting of meters on the supply network to continually monitor flow and pressure.*
- *Temporary isolation of mains to pinpoint problems on the network.*
- *Repairs on sections with identified leaks.*
- *Fitting new valves to improve the supply.*

Where possible essential leak detection works are undertaken at night and weekends to minimize disruption to our customers.

Water Conservation Project Update

Since 2006, 300 leaks have been detected. It is estimated that a further 1,200 will be detected in the next five years by Amajuba DM. The leak shown below was found in Emafusini in April 2012 and resulted in water losses of 140,000 litres per day!



Contact Us

If you have any queries in relation to water leaks or your water supply, please call Water Services on 034-3272000

Or email us at www.amajuba.gov.za

Conclusion

We hope that the awareness campaign will have a significant impact on the communities of Amajuba District Municipality and that the battle against water losses will soon be won