

Lynn Water Project

Water Use at Lynn University and how to reduce Water Waste

Spencer Backman, Political Science Major, Lynn University
sbackman@email.lynn.edu

The Water Problem

The Earth is more than 70% water so it's often assumed there is enough freshwater for life to survive. Only 3% of the water on Earth is freshwater, and of that 2.5% is locked in Glaciers, Icecaps, Atmosphere and Soil; meaning only 0.5% of all waters on Earth is available for use in farming, industry and drinking. By 2051, 40 out of 50 states will have water shortages. South Florida is particularly vulnerable to salt-water intrusion due to over extraction of ground water.

The Study and Methodology

The Survey was of 259 Lynn Students and Professors (roughly 12% of the Student and Faculty body), using a 15 questions, yes/no answer study on current water habits, water use awareness and likelihood to change habits. The Survey had 3 parts. The first being on the current water habits of the respondents. The second being on their current knowledge on water conservation and the subsequent introduction of potentially new information. The final section was a single question, "Based on the information in this survey, do you plan to change your actions to conserve water in the future?"

Responses

- When asking questions about current water use habits, "do respondents turn off the water when brushing teeth, shaving and limit waste in the shower?" We found that while 68.34% of respondents turn off the water when brushing their teeth, but only 49.42% do so to shave and that 68.73% of respondents run the water for more than one minute before getting in the shower
- When asked about their knowledge on water conservation, 83.78% of respondents know what water conservation is but only 29.46% know that running the shower a minute less can save 2 gallons of water a minute.
- When asked about their intentions to change their actions based on the information section of the survey, 81.78% say they would do so.

Conclusions

This issues is about awareness. This is shown by the percentages of people who turn off the water when they brush their teeth versus the number who reduce water waste in the shower.

Most importantly, respondents have expressed a willingness to do more to conserve water.

Three Solutions

First, do awareness drives at the start of every semester to allow that 81.78% who want to change the chance to do so.
Second, make water conservation a conversation in the DSL 100 courses, and in Lynn 101. That way people are armed with the knowledge of why change is important
Third, post flyers and posters in the dorms. Simple reminders in the bathrooms and hallways can make a world of difference.

Acknowledgments

Big thanks to Lynn University, Dr. Robert Watson, and Dr. Joanna Sackel and Project Civitas for approving the project. Ms. Evelyn Nelson, The Health and Humanitarian Aid Scholarship, Mr. Michael Abdy and Ms. Sandy Wolf for their kindness and generosity and to Professors Allen, Babou, Carlin, Greeney, and Wright for their support in letting me poll their classes.

References

- Bureau of Reclamation. (n.d.). *Water Facts-Worldwide Water Supply*. United States Bureau of Reclamation Website. <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/arwec/water-facts-ww-water-sup.html>
Retrieved April 17, 2022
- Heggie, Jon. 2020, August 12. *Why is America Running Low on Water?*. National Geographic. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/partner-content-americas-looming-water-crisis> Retrieved April 17, 2022\