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Can More be Done?

As Oklahoma celebrates its Centennial, water conservation remains a serious issue for all citizens of our state. Although we have come a long way in educating individuals for water conservation, we still have a long way to go. A great deal of effort has been made in teaching people to conserve water in their homes and businesses. For example, watering lawns at night instead of during the day to prevent evaporation, teaching children to turn off the faucet while brushing their teeth, and running dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are full are a few ways that we conserve water.

Considered alone, they are small steps, but together over the years a large amount of water has been conserved. So the question remains...can more be done? I think the answer is yes. In recent years, improvements have been made in technology to decontaminate sewer water. Most municipalities in the United States use an old fashioned water treatment system. The process is lengthy, ineffective and harmful to the environment. Also, enormous amounts of sewer water are allowed to go to waste or be discharged into the sea along with effluents, contaminating sea water.

Enzotech, a research institute in Singapore, has invented a plastic fiber filtering system that has the capability to decontaminate sewer water, eliminate bacteria totally and even make it potable. According to Naren Ghorpade M.D. of Enzotech Solutions, "We have developed the first indigenous waste water treatment plant." It has a wide spectrum of possible uses - from houses to hotels, hospitals and factories. It is a three stage filtering process that cleans the water of sludge and bacteria. In the final stage, water passes through a sand filter where clean water is the end result. At present, the capacity ranges from 25,000 to 75,000 gallons of water. These filtering systems can be installed in hospitals, apartment buildings, and businesses. But the real water conservation would start when cities replace their old water treatment systems with these new filtering plants. You can only imagine how much water could be saved in Oklahoma with these new water filtering systems.

Oklahoma produces mass amounts of crops each year. With these new systems, we wouldn't have to worry about water shortages for produce or livestock, which would help keep food prices from rising. Water conservation starts with each Oklahoman. It is up to each of us to do our part at home, but if Oklahoma industries, businesses, schools, cities and large facilities could embrace and install these indigenous waste water treatment systems, the impact would be phenomenal to our state water resources.