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A Wasteful World

Our population continues to grow but our sources of water are not keeping up with the growth. Government agencies that govern or watch over our water supply need to launch an intensive water education program that will both educate the public on water availability/conservation and how to avoid polluting the water that we do have. But it is also time to begin charging more to those who tend to waste water.

People spend millions of dollars every year on “precious” jewels, expensive cars, but they complain if they have a high water bill. Most people have absolutely no idea how much water they actually waste in a day. Water is the most precious resource we have and everyone needs to realize that. I like to swim, but I feel that people with swimming pools must realize pools are a luxury; the water to fill the pool doesn’t come from a bottomless well. What about people that water their yards on a daily basis, granted the water is going back in the ground, but how much evaporates along with landing on roadways and driveways. Incentives could be offered to people who show a major reduction in the water they use on a monthly basis. If the public was made aware of how much water they could save just by turning off water while they brush their teeth or while they are lathering up when they shower they could save quite a bit of water so that generations to come will still have enough water.

If consumers are charged more for the water they use they will learn to conserve. There could be a common formula used by all water departments that could determine how much water is required for a household based on the number of people living in that house. The water departments could look at the previous year’s usage to come up with a fair average. Then any water above and beyond what is considered normal or fair could be charged at a higher “luxury” rate. The water bills could easily show how much of the water used was considered unnecessary or excessive. The bill could also include suggestions to reduce their water bills. When you look at what cities actually charge for water it really is a very cheap “luxury.”

I know that what I am suggesting will make more work for cities but, it is time to work harder to get people to be more conscientious about the water they use, and more importantly the water they waste. It is sad fact that hitting a person’s wallet is the fastest and easiest way to get their attention. Water conservation has got to become a higher priority for the government agencies that oversee our water resources and the people of this country who cannot live without water.