Water – Launch Newsletter

Welcome to the Water People Power Challenge! Over the next [enter number] weeks, [enter organization name] will be taking action to learn more about water stewardship.   There are many fun events and activities that you can complete to earn points and drive positive environmental action at home, at work, and in your community. [If your organization will be providing prizes for participation, insert that information here]. Your sustainability champion is [insert name]; contact them with any questions.

LEARN MORE

Title: Webinar Watch Party: Water Leaders Training

Subtitle: Join your colleagues on (insert date and time) for a watch party!

Besides conserving water, there are lots of ways you can be a good water steward at home. This webinar covers detecting and stopping water leaks, water contamination & flush campaigns, and municipal landscaping programs you can access to improve your garden and help manage stormwater.

Register here **(INSERT LINK)**

UPCOMING EVENT

Title: Complete a Shoreline Cleanup

In this time of physical distancing, you can still take care of our natural environment! Plan your shoreline cleanup, either on your own or with members of your household. The Shoreline Cleanup Guide provides you with safety tips, guidance around the equipment needed to complete a successful cleanup, and how to dispose of the items you collect. You can also track your impact by [**downloading the Clean Swell app**](https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CleanSwellApp-Guide-PPC2020_FOR-WEB.pdf) and using the group name **PPCONDEMAND.**Details can be found [here](https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/shoreline-cleanup-people-power-challenge-on-demand/).

TAKE ACTION

To earn points, send pictures of yourself completing the following activities to **[insert champion name and contact details].**Each activity is worth 50 points, and can be completed multiple times.

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| **Check your downspout**  | It may seem like a small thing but making sure that your downspout from your eavestrough is directed into either a rain barrel or a lawn/garden is important. Directing your downspout to a rain barrel or yard can reduce the chance of flooding and puts less stress on our stormwater infrastructure.   | Photo of your downspout being directed into a water barrel or into your lawn/garden.  |
| **Make natural home cleaning products**  | Make your own natural home cleaning products! This will help save you money and avoid the use of harsh chemicals. This helps your health and stops chemicals from going down the drain and into our waterways. Examples include using vinegar and/or baking soda to help keep your home clean.  | Photo of the natural cleaning products being used in your home.  |
| **Wash your clothing using a microfiber filter system**  | Most synthetic fabrics contain plastic.  Every time these items are washed, tiny plastic microfibers make their way into our water systems, and eventually into our lakes, rivers and oceans.  There are now many options to help capture these microfibers and stop them from entering our waterways.  Explore which option works best for you and start using it today!  | Photo of your chosen microfiber filter.  |
| **Plant native flowers**  | A native plant is one that grew here prior to European colonization. These plants have survived for thousands of years and are well adapted to the local weather conditions, meaning they are perfectly suited to the amount of rainfall in the region. This means less supplemental watering is required, saving resources and leaving you with more time to stop and see the black eyed Susans.  | Photo of the native plants in your garden.  |
| **Install low flow faucet aerators**  | Install a faucet aerator to reduce the amount of water being used at home.  | Photo of you installing the aerator.  |
| **Reduce single use plastics in your grocery shopping**  | Many single use plastics end up as litter, and litter ends up in our waterways.  Do your part to reduce the problem of plastic waste by choosing fruits and vegetables that are plastic free, bringing reusable grocery and produce bags, and buying items in bulk to reduce plastic packaging.  | Photo of your plastic free grocery haul.  |
| **Use leftover pasta water on your plants**  | Pasta water provides extra nutrients that can help plants grow. Next time you boil pasta, save the water and use it in your garden! You can also save the water you use to rinse off fruits and vegetables and use that to water your plants.  | Photo of you draining your pasta water another photo of you watering your plants with it.  |
| **Conduct your own 20 minute makeover cleanup**  | Many plastic items end up in our waterways. Set aside 20 minutes and head outside with a garbage bag and protective gear to pick up litter in your local neighborhood.  | Photo of you and/or your family/neighbours collecting litter found in your neighbourhood while adhering to public health guidelines.   |
| **Create a family eco-pledge board**  | Like a sustainability board you might find at your workplace, set up an area of your home where you can display your family's commitment to leading more eco-conscious lives. Be open to the different actions individuals want to commit to and encourage dialogue and brainstorming.  | Photo of your eco-pledge board. If you'd like to be in the photo, even better!  |

EXPLORING THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In each newsletter, we will be focusing on one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and bringing you videos, articles, and news stories to help increase awareness around these critical global goals.

Title: SDG #6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Subtitle: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

The sixth goal of the UN SDGs focuses on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and emphasizes that access to water, sanitation and hygiene is a basic human right.

According to the United Nations, 2.2 billion people around the world still lack access to safely managed water, including 785 million who are without basic drinking water. The impacts of climate change are resulting in the availability of water becoming less predictable in many places, with some regions experiencing droughts and biodiversity being threatened worldwide.

**Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNmyl2TWNoY**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SDGS:**[**https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/sustainable-development-goals/**](https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/sustainable-development-goals/)

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

* [**The Business Case for Natural Infrastructure**](https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Natural-Infrastructure-and-the-Business-Case-Final-2020.pdf) - Partners in Project Green (white paper)
* [**Watershed Management**](https://trca.ca/conservation/watershed-management/) - Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (webpage)
* [**How to Set up a Rain Barrel and Harvest Rainwater**](https://trca.ca/news/set-up-rain-barrels-harvest-rainwater/) - Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
* [**Why Water is Worthy of the History Books**](https://www.cbc.ca/radio/secretlifeofcanada/why-water-is-worthy-of-the-history-books-1.4987957) - CBC Podcast
* [**Safeguarding Canada's Freshwater**](https://environmentaldefence.ca/campaign/water/) - Environmental Defense (webpage)