



Hi everyone! Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedules to join us today.

My name is *[PRESENTER'S NAME]* and I'm here on behalf of Audubon Florida *[and NAME OF PARTNER ORGANIZATION]*. I am excited to share our presentation with you!

Each of you has an important role to play in safeguarding Water for Florida's Future. Today we'll talk about what you can do to make a difference right here in *[NAME OF COUNTY/COMMUNITY]*.

Before we get started, we'd love to tell you about the organization that's heading this initiative.

A State leader in conservation, Audubon Florida has been protecting birds and special places for more than 100 years. Using science to guide conservation priorities and birdlife to measure ecosystem health, Audubon advocates for protection of land, water and wildlife.

Audubon works with a grassroots network of chapters and volunteers, businesses, communities and governments to solve Florida's most pressing environmental problems.

Now, let's get started!



WATER FOR FLORIDA'S FUTURE
What do Florida's waters mean to you?



First, let's take a moment to reflect. Clear, fresh water is so much a part of what makes Florida special. We have abundant lakes, beautiful rivers, and gushing springs.

Being outside and enjoying nature can be a moving experience for many people. In fact, Stanford researchers have found being in nature can greatly improve our mental health.

Let's take a few minutes to share our own experiences with feeling connected to lakes and rivers. It might be a recent experience or a memory from when you were a kid. I'll start first.

[PRESENTER SHARES A MEMORY OF FEELING CONNECTED TO FRESH WATER]

Who else would like to share a memory?



WATER FOR FLORIDA'S FUTURE
What kind of Florida are we leaving behind?

Audubon
FLORIDA

Now I'd like us to think about future generations. What might these natural experiences look like for our children and grandchildren? Will our kids be able to tube down, swim or fish from our crystal clear, spring-fed rivers?

The answer is: it depends. On us.

For a long time, Floridians treated water like it was an unlimited resource. But now we know otherwise.

Water defines Florida's natural ecosystems. It shapes the quality of our lives. It supports tourism and sets us apart as a destination State.

It is essential to every sector of our economy – from manufacturing to agriculture to energy production. And it is a source of income for thousands of our residents.

But overuse of water is depleting our natural aquifers and surface waters, threatening the very building blocks of our way of life.



Every day, more than 4 billion gallons of water are pumped from the Floridan Aquifer, the underground system that provides the main source of drinking water for much of our state. But what does that number mean?

Imagine the average backyard swimming pool. Every day, we pump enough water to fill 185,000 of those pools. And then we throw all that water out and fill them the next day.

When it comes to water overuse, our natural ecosystems can signal when the situation is getting dire. And already, Florida's freshwater systems show signs of stress.

Sources:

<https://www.reference.com/home-garden/many-gallons-water-average-21-foot-swimming-pool-hold-ee99d3ef00a83005>

<http://www.floridasprings.org/protecting/threats1/water/>



WATER FOR FLORIDA'S FUTURE
Our Water Supply at a Glance



Over-pumping diminishes spring flows. In some cases our natural springs have dried up completely or faced irreversible effects, such as Spring Creek Springs, one of the state's most powerful springs which reversed its flow in 2006 due to over pumping.

Another problem is what is known as saltwater intrusion. That happens when the water levels in the Aquifer drop, and saltwater flows in from the coast, poisoning freshwater supplies.

Over-pumping can lead to habitat loss for all the creatures who depend on fresh water, including the hundreds of manatees who winter at our local Springs.

Over-pumping can also contribute to habitat loss for humans, by increasing the frequency of sinkholes. That puts the very land where we build our homes and our businesses at risk.



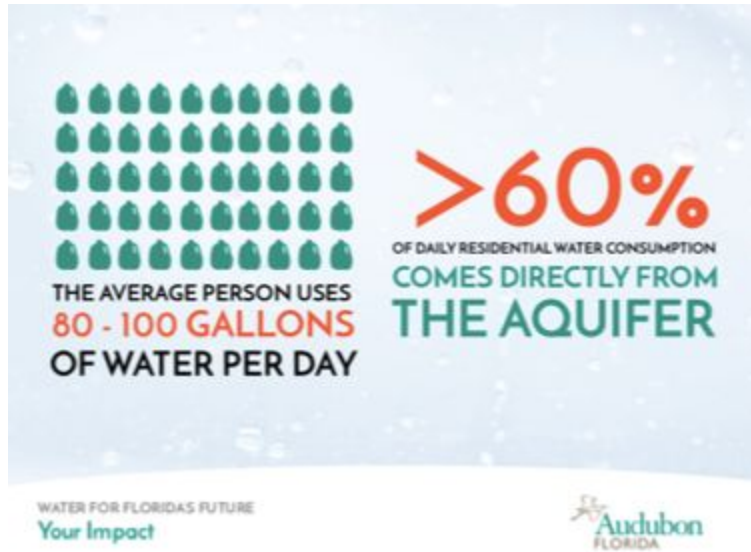
WATER FOR FLORIDA'S FUTURE
What is your role?



Our water problems can seem overwhelming. How can one person make a difference?

The answer is: a lot!

Does anyone in the audience want to guess at how much water the average Floridian consumes on a daily basis?



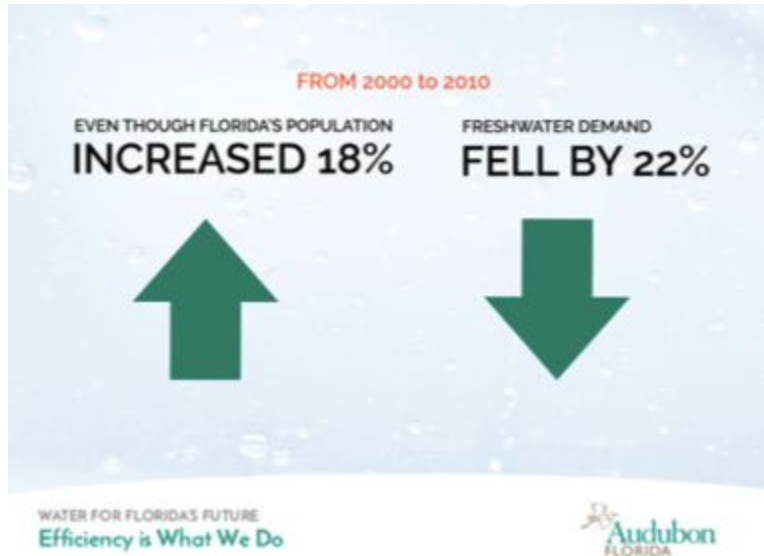
If you underestimated the amount of water we use, you're not alone.

On average, 54 percent of people think they use a lot less water than they really do. In fact, most people guess they use around 50 gallons of water a day.

In reality, we use about twice as much. And in Florida, more than 60 percent of residential water comes directly from the Aquifer.

Source:

<http://www.floridasprings.org/protecting/threats1/water/>



Here's the good news – today's Floridians are taking steps to preserve Water for Florida's Future.

As more Floridians adopt conservation methods, our freshwater demand has decreased by 22% from 2000 to 2010, even though Florida's population has increased by 18%.

For more and more of us, water conservation and efficiency are a way of life. We Floridians are figuring out how to meet our daily needs with less water. A lot less. But there's still a ways to go, and you can join us!

Sources:

<https://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/waterpolicy/docs/sustaining-our-water-resources.pdf>

<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20145088>

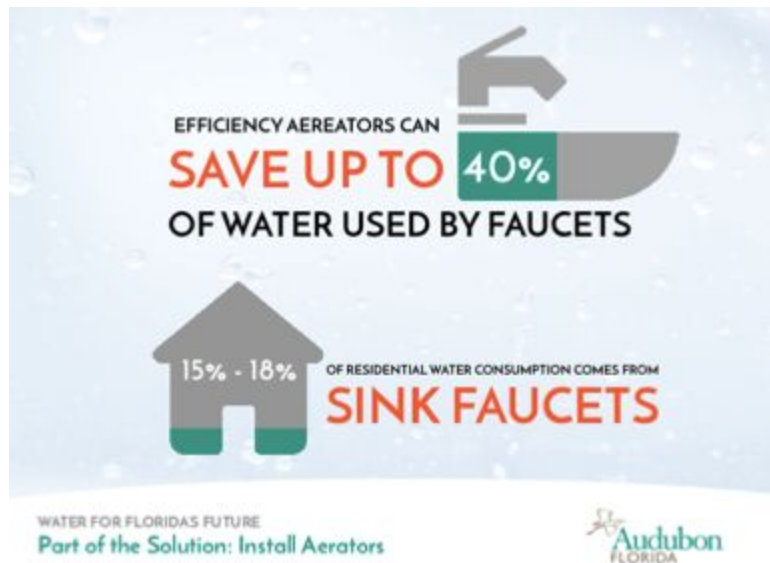


Saving our Aquifer's water starts with small steps right in your home.

With three simple behaviors, you can save hundreds of gallons of water a day without even thinking about it.

1. Install faucet aerators.
2. Check for leaky toilets.
3. Replace old toilets with a high-efficiency model (built after 2013)

We'll walk through these one by one.



Water flowing from faucets around the house accounts for about 18 percent of our at-home water use.

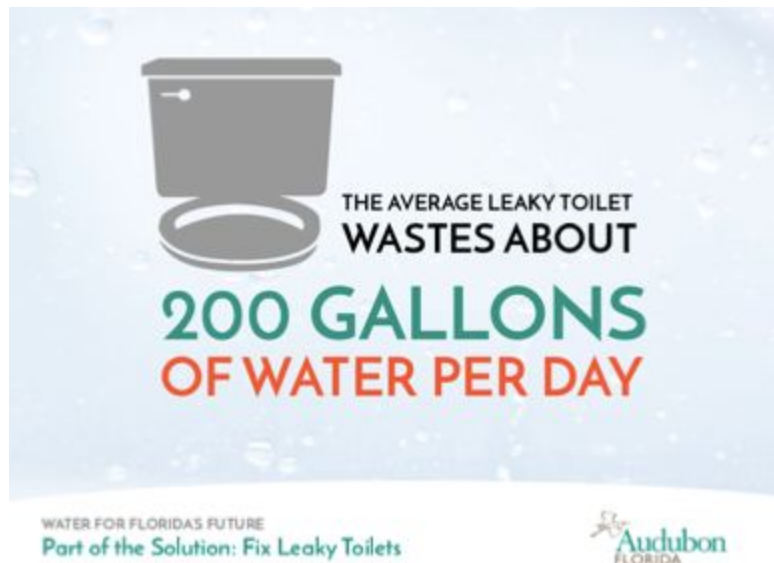
One of the easiest ways to save water is reducing faucet flow by installing efficiency aerators – a small screen that fits right inside your sink faucet.

There is no noticeable difference in water flow, but there is a very noticeable difference on your water bill. Aerators can reduce the amount of water you use by up to 40%.

To put this into perspective, a house that uses 10,000 gallons can save 4,000 gallons of water a year.

Source:

<http://www.conserveh2o.org/faucet-water-use>



Leaky toilets are your next easy fix. A single leaking toilet wastes 200 gallons a day. That's more than TWICE as much as the average person uses for their own personal consumption.

The good news is that finding and fixing toilet leaks is easier than you would think.

Using the leak test kits we've prepared for you today, you can simply add a drop of food coloring to your toilet tank and check back on it five minutes later.

If you find any coloring in your toilet bowl, you've got a leak! These are most likely caused by old and worn-out toilet flappers, which are inexpensive and easy to replace.

If you find that you've got a leak, please refer to our handout for help on how to fix it!

Source:

<http://codb.us/DocumentCenter/View/891> (St. John's River Water Management District)



The third step to significantly reduce your water consumption at home is installing high-efficiency toilets.

High-efficiency toilets are toilets manufactured in 2013 or later. They work as well as a conventional toilet but use far less water. During a recent study in Tampa, 9 in 10 residents who had made the switch to high-efficiency toilets said they were happy with their decision.

Toilets make up about one-third of overall household water consumption. Swapping out your old toilets will reduce your water use by an average of 16%. That translates into saving 15,000 to 20,000 gallons per year for the average family.

Sources:

<http://www.home-water-works.org/indoor-use/toilets>

https://www3.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/hi-eff_toilet.pdf



So what if even more people start saving water?

Let's assume everyone here in [COUNTY] adopted these three behaviors: Fixed a leaky toilet, installed one high-efficiency toilet, and installed aerators in the sinks in their home.

Right here in [NAME OF COUNTY], we could save [NUMBER OF GALLONS FROM DATA BELOW] every year.

Talk about making a difference!

[DO NOT READ]

Gallons saved per county over one year:

Pinellas: 15,817,548,900

Orange: 16,165,730,100

Osceola: 4,290,917,000

Pasco: 7,338,285,000

Sources:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/HSG010215/12097>

Bird: Bald Eagle



As you've already seen, those three actions alone are enough to greatly reduce your home's water consumption.

But if you're looking for even greater impact, your yard is a great place to start. In Central Florida, at least half of the drinking water we use in our homes is poured onto our yards. In the summer, that percentage can climb even higher.

Here are three things you can do outside:

- Turn off your automated system and instead only water when your yard gets dry.
- Check for leaks to make sure you're not wasting water.
- And best of all, plant bird-friendly landscaping that needs less water to thrive in our semi-tropical climate.

Source:

<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/outdoors/>



WATER FOR FLORIDA'S FUTURE
Becoming an Audubon Community Steward



What will Florida's waters look like for future generations? The answer to that question depends on us.

We hope all of you will join the growing number of Floridians who are saving water at home. And we hope many of you will agree today to do just a little bit more by becoming an Audubon Community Steward.

Audubon Community Stewards play a particularly important role in taking these behaviors beyond their home, helping increase our impact significantly. I became a Steward because (example: I want my grandchildren to have the same experiences I did growing up in Florida), and you can too.

After today's presentation, we're going to hold a five minute Audubon Community Steward training. We'll show you how to install an aerator and test a toilet for leaks. And then we'll give you take-home kits so you can help your friends and family save water too.

Bird: Cardinal



Water conservation is a big problem, but we have the solution. It starts right here with everyone in this room.

Together, we can create a better legacy for the Florida we love. Together, we can protect Water for Florida's Future. Thank you!