

WATER AND ECO COMMUNITIES

At Seeds for Eco Communities we recognize the importance of water to all living beings and are very thankful to have access to clean water. We all have a responsibility to take care of this water - which we can do beginning with a few modifications in how we live our day to day lives. This fact sheet provides information on things to consider when thinking about your water use in an eco community setting.



Water Sources



Eco communities can use many different water sources however the best source of useable water comes from natural springs. The reason for this is that groundwater is typically more protected from sources of contamination which surface water is exposed to. Wells are also commonly used as a viable source of off grid water from a groundwater source. Municipal water is used as a last resort if that is the only source available, this is due to the high energy required for its treatment and transport to your property.



Water Quality



It is important to think about the quality of your water source, especially if you are utilizing it for drinking water. Some sources will require treatment to ensure they are safe to drink. It is always important to investigate and maintain a good understanding of the water quality on your eco community. Use of eco friendly products such as sulphate free shampoo and biodegradable soaps can help to avoid unnecessary contamination of your water source and land.



Harvesting Rain Water



Rainwater is a natural and free source of fresh water. Harvesting rainwater in a tank provides a personal supply of water and reduces the need to draw from other water sources. Rainwater harvesting is the practice of accumulation and storage of rain water for reuse on site. Water collected is redirected to a deep pit, well, or basin or collected from dew or fog with nets or other tools.

Did You Know?

Simple alternatives such as compost or low flow toilets can reduce both your water and energy needs!



Water Storage and Treatment



Cisterns of various shapes and sizes can be utilized to store sometimes many gallons of water, which can be very helpful during dry drought seasons. Cisterns can be either above ground or buried.

Untreated rainwater that is collected can be used for watering gardens, for livestock, irrigation, among other things. Treated rainwater can be reused for a wide range of indoor uses such as flushing toilets, showers and baths, laundry and even drinking and cooking, if treated properly.



Water Conservation



One of the easiest and economical ways to begin to reduce your water foot print is through water conservation practices. Reducing the water you need for daily tasks such as washing dishes or brushing your teeth can add up over time. Composting toilets are a great alternative as they use minimal to zero water. When it is time to wash your clothes or dishes make sure you have full loads before starting the machines.