

"Water Consciousness for Global Citizenship"

Amber Katherine, Oct. 1, 2009

Welcome & community greetings!

FACTS: Of the 6.7 billion people on earth today, nearly one billion people lack access to safe water and 2.5 billion do not have improved sanitation. More than 3.5 million people die each year from water-related disease.

Here are some *concrete* images to go with these *abstract* facts.

As you watch, ask: **who are these people to me?** [World Water Crisis](#) (1.5 min clip)

[Beyond Scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis \(UN 2006\)](#) (start 1:30)

INTRODUCTION: GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

- This lecture is a starting point...
- Global citizenship is **choice** to commit to **participate in civic/public** life.
- It requires the use of your **head**, your **hands** and your **heart**.
- It requires **education**/consciousness-raising; only *some* of which you can get at SMC.
- Keep asking yourself, where am I in all this?

[Images of Planet Earth](#) (7 mins)

What does "global citizenship" mean?

To understand the concept in a historical context let's consider what philosophers in the Western Tradition have said about "Global Citizenship":

- The term philosophers use to talk about "global citizenship" is "[Cosmopolitanism](#)" which derives from the Greek word *kosmopolitês* ('citizen of the world').
- **Although Socrates did not directly advocate being a "world citizen," there is support for it in his legacy.** In Plato's *Apology* he claims his life was devoted to persuading others "not to care for any of his belongings before caring that he himself should be as good and wise as possible, not to care for the city's possessions more than for the city itself, and to care for other things in the same way," presumably including earth and its peoples.
- **However, Plato's *Republic* is decidedly not cosmopolitan.** A good person's allegiance is to his republic. His pursuit of a good life is inextricably bound to the fate of his city. By contrast, the good person would not be expected to share with or serve any foreigners who live outside the city.
- **The first philosopher** in the West to give perfectly explicit expression to cosmopolitanism was the **Socratically inspired Cynic Diogenes** in the fourth century B.C.E. It is said that "when he was asked where he came from, he replied, '**I am a citizen of the world [kosmopolitês]**'" (Diogenes Laertius VI 63). The Cynic way of life is cosmopolitan insofar as it rejects what is conventional, and advocates **living in accordance with nature and universal virtues**.

- The Cynic-influenced **Stoics of the third century C.E.** saw **the cosmos as a polis, perfectly ordered by the law of right reason.**
- **Roman Stoics justify the extension of citizenship to all human beings by virtue of their rationality.**
- **Seneca** says the human community “is truly great and truly common, in which we look neither to this corner nor to that, but measure the boundaries of our nation by the sun.” (*De Otio*)
- Stoic cosmopolitanism influenced early **Christianity**. “**Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's**” (Matthew 22:21). On this view, the local city may have divine authority (*John* 19:11; cf. *Romans* 13:1,4,7), but the most important work for human goodness is removed from traditional politics, set aside in a sphere in which **people of all nations can become “fellow-citizens with the saints”** (*Ephesians* 2:20).
- **Cosmopolitanism waned with the rise of nationalism and national monarchies in early modern Europe**, exemplified by Nicolo Machiavelli's primary end: preservation of the state even when that requires immoral acts against citizens or enemies.
- There was a philosophical resurgence of cosmopolitanism during the **Enlightenment**, exemplified by the emergence of a notion of human rights and a philosophical emphasis on human reason. The **universalist potential in the discourse of ‘world citizenship’** has been used as a basis for exposing national shortcomings including discrimination, slavery, and apartheid.
- In the **eighteenth century**, the terms ‘cosmopolitanism’ and ‘world citizenship’ were often used not as labels for determinate philosophical theories, but rather to indicate an **attitude of open-mindedness and impartiality**. A cosmopolitan was someone who was not subservient to a particular religious or political authority, someone who was not biased by particular loyalties or cultural prejudice.
- **According to Kant**, all rational beings are members in a single moral community he called “the kingdom of ends.” They are analogous to citizens in a state bound by the rule of law. **Their common laws, however, are the laws of morality, grounded in reason.**
- In *Perpetual Peace* (1795) Kant argues that true and world-wide peace is possible only when **states are organized internally according to ‘republican’ principles (freedom & equality), when they are organized externally in a voluntary league for the sake of keeping peace, and when they respect the human rights not only of their citizens but also of foreigners.**
- **Marx and Engels claim ‘cosmopolitanism’ is bourgeois ideology** designed to legitimize the “free market” which **is the cause of exploitation and misery for millions**. At the same time, Marx and Engels also hold that the proletariat in every country shares essential features and has common interests. Most famously, the *Communist Manifesto* ends with the call, **“Proletarians of all countries, unite!”** This, combined with the ideal of the class-less society and the expected withering away of the state after the revolution, implies a form of cosmopolitanism of its own.
- **Recently, philosophers have been debating whether nationalism ought not give way to cosmopolitanism if we hope to solve the problems of the 21st century.** Example: Martha Nussbaum's *For Love of Country?* (1996)

- The **League of Nations, the United Nations, and the Red Cross** are 20th century institutions designed to embody the ideal of cosmopolitanism / global citizenship.

Another way to understand what “Global Citizenship” means is to see what it means in practice, as it is expressed by the largest institution that sails under its flag:

The United Nations Images: [Declaration of Human Rights Video](#) (4 mins)

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights. Due to its unique international character, and the powers vested in its founding Charter, the Organization can take action on a wide range of issues, and provide a forum for its [192 Member States](#) to express their views, through the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies and committees.

The work of the United Nations reaches every corner of the globe. Although best known for peacekeeping, peace-building, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, there are many other ways the United Nations and its System (specialized agencies, funds and programs) affect our lives and make the world a better place. The Organization works on a broad range of fundamental issues, from sustainable development, environment and refugees protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, to promoting democracy, human rights, governance, economic and social development and international health, clearing landmines, expanding food production, and more, in order to achieve its goals and coordinate efforts for a safer world for this and future generations.

You are represented by the UN by way of your country’s membership.

The **PREAMBLE** of [The Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (adopted in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly) embodies and reflect the moral character of “global citizenship”:

“Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.”

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

There are 30 articles in all. Anyone interested in becoming a global citizen ought to be familiar with them all. Advice: Know what you are for.

QUESTION: Does anyone know if THE RIGHT TO WATER is listed among the articles? We will come back to this...

In response to the UN Declaration, some – religious leaders, social justice workers and environmentalists – claimed it did not go far enough:

- **There is no mention of ecological problems, or our earthly home**
- **No acknowledgement that life in healthy ecosystems is a human right**
- **It fails to acknowledge other earthlings as part of the global community, thereby excluding them as “global citizens”**

Between 1995 – 2000 [The Earth Charter](#) was drafted to meet these criticisms. Although it has not been adopted by the United Nations, it offers a more inclusive understanding of “global citizenship”:

Universal Responsibility

To realize these aspirations, we must decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility, **identifying ourselves with the whole Earth community** as well as our local communities. We are at once citizens of different nations and of one world in which the local and global are linked. Everyone shares responsibility for the present and future well-being of the human family and the larger living world. **The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life** is strengthened when we live with reverence for the mystery of being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature.

We urgently need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community. Therefore, together in hope we affirm the following interdependent principles for a sustainable way of life as a common standard by which the conduct of all individuals, organizations, businesses, governments, and transnational institutions is to be guided and assessed.

Why “global citizenship”?

The opponents of global citizenship come from various quarters. It is beyond the scope of this lecture to list them and present their arguments. Here are some references:

[For love of country? By Martha Craven Nussbaum, Joshua Cohen](#)
[The cosmopolitan vision By Ulrich Beck, Ciaran Cronin](#)
[World citizenship: cosmopolitan thinking and its opponents By Derek Heater](#)

Basically, the opponents argue:

- Cosmopolitanism is **meaningless** without the existence of a world-state.
- It is **impossible** to realize the cosmopolitan ideal.
- The cosmopolitan idea is **undesirable**, especially insofar as it undermines one’s more local allegiances, e.g. to family, state, nation.




Here’s an argument FOR Global Citizenship: [All is One](#) (1 min)

1. **Ecological Argument:** “Eco” derives from the Greek "οἶκος" (oikos) which refers to a "house," "household" or “home.” The logic of our home – the earth – is an organic whole formed by relations of interdependence, or ecosystems. Since all life on the planet depends of the health of these systems, we are bound by nature into a global community. National boundaries, which are merely conventional and invisible from space, have no *real* jurisdiction.
2. **Pragmatic Argument:** We will be better able to solve our collective (global) problems if we all work together, guided by universal values, e.g. liberty, equality, sustainability and mutual respect.
3. **World Peace & Justice Argument:** Excluding some people from decision-making that affects everyone on the basis of citizenship claims is unfair and breeds conflict and war.
4. **Developmental Argument:** A cosmopolitan ethic reflects moral maturity. Therefore, to realize one’s full human potential one ought to strive to become a global citizen.
5. **“Do the Right Thing” Argument:** Segregation, Separatism, Partisan politics, Factionalism, Parochialism, Patriotism and Nationalism are the inevitable ends of power politics based on the view that “Might Makes Right.” Only “global citizenship” recognizes that we interconnected and bound by a common good: life on earth.

What is the biggest barrier to Global Citizenship?

Mass Media: Pledging allegiance to the Corporate Agenda

- Television “programming” is a profit-making endeavor, including the network news. One of the most effective profit-making strategies is called “branding” i.e. making a company name or trademark a symbol or mark of prestige or quality. Example: People buy the Nike swoosh, not the shoe it is emblazoned on.
- [Brand loyalty](#) vs. Global Citizenship: What community are you loyal to?
- According to Robert Bateman, “we live in a society where youth recognize 1,000 corporate logos and fewer than 10 species of wildlife found in their communities.” [Source of the research that supports this claim is unknown.]
- Example: **Bottled Water Brand Loyalty 2009 (Top 3) *What’s your brand?***

Icon / Flag	Corporate Agenda
	<p>Aquafina is owned by Pepsico. See Vandana Shiva’s explanation of India’s campaign to ban Coke & Pepsi: Each plant of Coke and Pepsi extracts 1 - 2 million litres per day. At that rate, times 90 plants, the daily extraction is between 90 - 180 million litres. This could meet the daily requirement of drinking water of millions of people Each litre of soft drink destroys and pollutes 10 litres of water.</p>
	<p>http://www.fijiwater.com/ Click to see why our water is green?? See Fast Company’s Message in a Bottle: Half the wholesale cost of Fiji Water is transportation--which is to say, it costs as much to ship Fiji Water across the oceans and truck it to warehouses in the United States than it does to extract the water and bottle it. AND: The water may come from "one of the last pristine ecosystems on earth," as some of the labels say, but out back of the bottling plant is a less pristine ecosystem veiled with a diesel haze. AND: Most of the 850,000 citizens of Fiji cannot afford bottled water and do not have a reliable natural source.</p>
	<p>Poland Spring is a subsidiary of Nestlé a multinational company. See Corporate Watch: Convicted of illegal extraction of groundwater in Brazil.</p>

Hence, becoming a global citizen involves resisting the temptation to pledge allegiance to a corporate agenda. It involves resisting the notion that *your identity* is reflected in the brands you buy, or that *you are what you buy*. Becoming a global citizen means you *cannot* be branded.

There is more to this example than illustrating brand loyalty. What it reflects is the dominant mode of socialization to understand **water as a commodity**, as something that is owned and sold by corporations in order to make a profit.

A global citizen might ask, is thinking of water as a commodity in the interests of the global community?

What does it take to *become* a “global citizen”?

Becoming a global citizen requires some education.

At Santa Monica College we have decided that “To be a global citizen, one:

- [must be] knowledgeable of peoples, customs and cultures in regions of the world beyond one’s own;
- [must] understand the interdependence that holds both promise and peril for the future of the global community; and
- [must be] committed to combining one’s learning with a dedication to foster a livable, sustainable world.”

This is the basis for our new [global citizenship graduation requirement](#).

There are several ways to meet this requirement. One is taking a class that focuses on “Ecological Literacy”:

Ecological Literacy at SMC: Ecological literacy requires interdisciplinary understanding of both nature and humanity. This includes scientific examination of the interactions between and within the systems and cycles of the atmosphere, lithosphere, and hydrosphere, which together provide the basis for life on Earth. Ecological literacy also includes awareness and understanding of the many continuing impacts that human beings have had on natural environments, at scales ranging from the local to the global, and how those impacts are linked to the sustainability of social, cultural, and political-economic systems.

But, there is much more to becoming a global citizen than you can learn in one class. It involves the path of life-long learning.

Becoming a global citizen involves cultivating a particular kind of consciousness:

- ***A Communitarian sensibility.*** a sense of belonging to an all inclusive community, e.g. the community of humans or earthlings; a choice to be a part of this whole rather than idolizing individualism and self-interest.
- ***Commitment to particular Values/Ethics*** even if they are not required by law:
Rights, e.g. [The Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (UDHR)
Responsibilities/duties, e.g. [The Earth Charter](#)
- ***Civic Participation & Character (the Integrity, Will and Courage to walk the talk)***; to live the examined life; to ask before acting, *what would a global citizen do?* And to act in the interest of the global good, rather than being complacent or “neutral” or copping out.

No doubt, this is easier said than done, especially in our part of the world today.

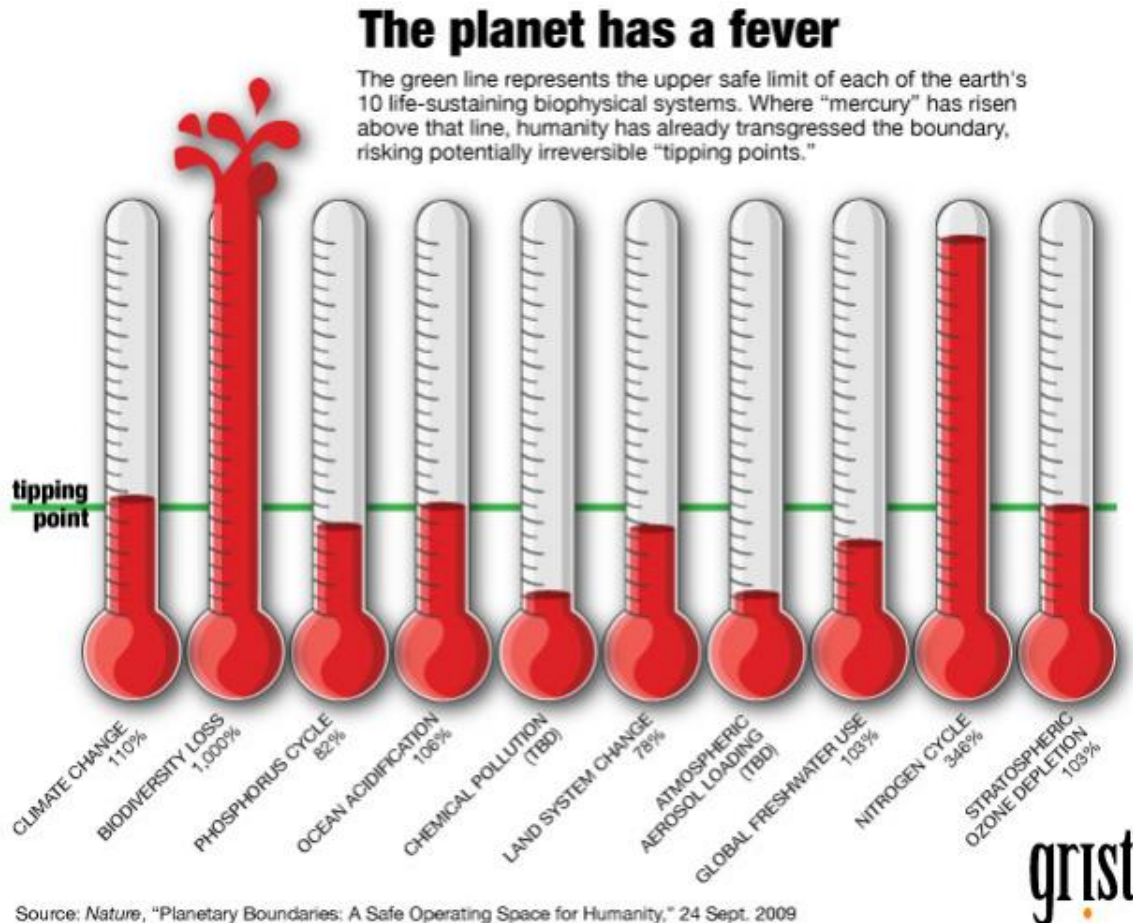
The Global Water Crisis: What should Global Citizens know?

Here is one source: "[Planetary Boundaries: A Safe Operating Space for Humanity.](#)"

In it, a team of 28 scientists has identified 10 separate biophysical systems crucial to humanity's flourishing; for each system they have identified a "safe operating boundary" within which humanity must remain if it wishes to maintain the basic environmental conditions in which it evolved.

Human activities," the scientists warn, "have now reached a magnitude that may trigger irreversible and in some cases abrupt environmental change by damaging the regulatory capacity of the systems on Earth that keep the planet in the desired Holocene state."

Here's the bad news about those boundaries, beyond which we risk nonlinear and irreversible consequences: we've already transgressed three of them. Here's the tally:



Global freshwater use: Withdrawals of freshwater for use by humans (km³ per year)

Proposed boundary: 4000

Today's figure: 2600

Pre-industrial figure: 415

There is so much to know, I cannot even summarize it all in this lecture.

FACTS:

- 884 million people lack access to safe water supplies, (one in eight).
- About a third of people without access to an improved water source live on less than \$1 a day. More than two thirds of people without an improved water source live on less than \$2 a day
- Poor people living in the slums often pay 5-10 times more per liter of water than wealthy people living in the same city.

The Global Debate: Is water a human right or a commodity?

- Most of the water (97%) in the world is considered to be part of the "[global commons](#)" along with Antarctica and the atmosphere, i.e. beyond national jurisdiction or held in common (not privately owned). But that water is not freshwater.
- Freshwater (lakes, rivers, streams) – about 3% of the earth's water – is mostly under national jurisdiction and is owned privately or by a government.
- Water has not always been understood as something that can be owned. In the past, water was understood as a sacred part of the commons.
- To understand what has happened to the commons read: [The Tragedy of the Commons By Garrett Hardin](#) (1968)
- In a nutshell the tragedy is brought about when individuals exploit the global commons for individual interest and gain, without regard to the global good (meeting the needs of all).

[Blue Gold : World Water Wars](#) (2:30 min)

Flow segment "Chief Seattle, 1854" (2:20 mins)

Flow segment "Michigan Citizens Take Nestlé to court" (7 mins)

Flow segment "Water Shortage Becomes Corporate Opportunity" (4 mins.)

Flow segment "The Water Barons" (4 mins)

WATER: What side would a global citizen take?

The Water Cartel (Flow excerpts)	Global Water Justice Movement (6 mins)
Private interests Transnational water & food corporations First World governments (most) Major international institutions: - World Bank - IM F - WTO - World Water Council - United Nations (parts)	Environmentalists Human rights activists Indigenous peoples Women's groups Small farmers & peasants Grassroots communities United Nations (parts – The Earth Charter)
Water is a commodity to be sold & traded on the open market.	Water is part of the global commons and must not be appropriated for personal profit or denied to anyone because of inability to pay.
Goal: Privatize all existing water resources.	Goal: To have water declared a human right recognized at all levels of government.

Water Solutions: What's a global citizen to do?

In a report entitled, "Our Common Future" a United Nations Commission advocates "[Sustainable Development](#)": "sustainable development is a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are all in harmony and **enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations.**"

[International Decade for Action: Water for Life, 2005-2015](#)

UNITED NATIONS [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDG):

[# 7 - ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY](#)

Target 3 -- **Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation**

[The Global Fresh Water Crisis](#) *The American Prospect* Special Report

Eight Principles to Guide Action: (Source: Tony Clarke's "On Developing 'Water Consciousness': Eight Movement Building Principles")

1. Water Integrity: Recognize water's unique properties

- Water has *intrinsic*, not only *instrumental* value
- Learning from indigenous peoples: water is sacred, life-giving blood of mother earth, an elemental force: earth/air/fire/water
- Scientific discovery: water in trees expands and contracts in response to changing moon cycles during different seasons of the year.

- Watch & promote “[Moving Stars and Earth for Water](#)” Oct. 9 online.
- 2. Water Commons: Share with people and nature**
- Recognize that because water is THE source of life, it is different from things that can be bought and sold in the market
 - Resist the commodification of water
 - Legislate for water as a human right: 20 liters per person, per day; free to those with no means to pay
- 3. Water Sovereignty: Enhance local community control**
- Recognize that water is local: disrupting local watersheds to serve distant lands = ecosystem destruction
 - Work for local, community control of water rights
 - Resist corporate and central government control
 - Beware “private-public-partnerships”
 - Resist dams that shift control of water from rural, food producing communities to cities and industry
- 4. Water Equity: Ensure equal distribution**
- Equity = fair, just, impartial, ethical
 - Support
 - [Know the key principles for binding law on the right to water](#)
 - Support the [Peoples Statement on the Right to Water](#) and check out their list of how you can help
 - Resist water pricing for profit-making
 - Join the movement & sign the petition for the [International Convention on the Right to Water](#)
 - Join the [Global Water Justice Movement](#) for Right-to-Water Laws
 - [The World Water Council](#) (NGO)
 - [Blue Planet Project](#)
 - [Food and Water Watch](#)
 - [The list goes on...](#)
- 5. Water Conservation: Use only what you need**
- Acknowledge the fact: the U.S. is the highest per capita water consumer in the world
 - Know your water footprint: [How many liters does making a computer require?](#)
 - [Calculate your Water Footprint](#): How many gallons a day do you consume?
 - Reduce your energy use and carbon footprint to save water.
 - Use water saving technologies.
 - If you experience water abundance, don’t assume its universal
 - Recognize the *limits* of freshwater resources: the hydrologic cycle is being compromised by urbanization, industrialization & climate change

- Recognize the *trends*: the earth is drying up, desertification is spreading across continents at alarming rates and droughts are more common and severe
- Ask before use: is this necessary or luxury? How can I use less?
- Study the experience of those who experience water scarcity and learn from them how to conserve
- Feature a [Rainwater Harvesting System](#) at your school or buy one for a community in need! (See [CRUDE](#) for inspiration from Sting & Trudie)
- Practice conservation every day as if every drop counted, because it does!

6. Water Quality: Protect healthy ecosystems

- Recognize we all live downstream!
- [Volunteer for the Earth Charter Initiative](#)
- [Stop using toxic cleaners, pesticides, and herbicides](#)
- [Properly of pharmaceuticals and personal care products](#)
- Identify & publicize contamination of watersheds and [groundwater](#)
- Support organizations that monitor water quality, e.g. [Heal the Bay](#) or [UNICEF's monitoring program](#)
- Volunteer to clean up polluted water ways, e.g. [Friends of the Los Angeles River](#)
- Advocate the enforcement of Clean Water Laws, e.g. [the U.S. Clean Water Act](#)
- Urge Congress to create a [Clean Water Trust Fund](#)
- Support [Amazon Watch](#)

7. Water Security: Prevent water wars

“Destruction of water resources and of forest catchments and aquifers is a form of terrorism.” – Vandana Shiva

- Beware, claims [Vandana Shiva](#), the wars of the 20th century were fought over oil, the wars of the 21st century will be fought over water.
- Make the following goals: meet basic needs, protect ecosystems, make agreements to share water resources equitably, good water governance.
- Study the [Ministerial Declaration of The Hague on Water Security in the 21st Century](#)

8. Water Democracy: Work together as water guardians

- Citizens are the water guardians; use the power of the vote to defend water
- Popularize “[water democracy](#)” (3 min)

TAKE ACTION AT SMC:

- Start/join a UNICEF club and support the [TAP PROJECT](#)
- Make art to submit to the Spring 2010 Student Art Exhibit called “The Water Project” opening March 19 at the SMC Performing Arts Center
- Join the Eco Action Club – Meets Thursdays 11:15 at CEUS
- Join Students for Social Justice
- Initiate a CAMPUS ACTION FOR WATER project for Earth Day 2010
- Attend another lecture this fall in the Global Citizenship water series

Where are you in all this? Can you select one thing you heard about today to act on? Ask the person sitting next to you, what are you going to do?

AWARENESS of the LOCAL PROBLEM:

[PSA from Metropolitan Water District](#) (31 sec)

[How close are we to mandatory water conservation?](#) (20 sec)

[California’s Water: A Crisis We Can’t Ignore](#) (5 min)

[American Southwest: Are we running dry?](#) (4:30 min)

AWARENESS of the GLOBAL PROBLEM:

[The United Nations Summit on Climate Change 2009](#) – What are world leaders saying about the relationship between water and climate change?

Resources:

[Global Mind Shift](#)

Feature Length Documentaries:

[A World Without Water](#) (Free online)

[Blue Gold : World Water Wars](#)

[Flow: For the Love of Water](#)

Short Documentaries:

[Bottled Water: Killing the Planet](#) (3:21)

[CNN Planet Peril : World Water Crisis](#) (4:41 mins)

[The Global Water Crisis/Our Moral Reckoning](#) (4:39) Water for People

[Beyond Scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis \(UN 2006\)](#) (5 mins)

[The Looming Global Water Crisis](#) (28 mins)

[Lecture by Maude Barlow, Author of Blue Covenant](#)

Coming soon to the SMC library:

Water: A Shared Responsibility (United Nations World Water Development Report) (2006)

Water Consciousness Edited by Tara Lohan, (Independent Media Institute, 2008)