

THEMESWATER

Despite the country being located in the Arabian Gulf, the amount of available freshwater in the UAE is very low. There are no permanent rivers or lakes. Also, the UAE gets an average of 100mm of rainfall in a year and that makes it a desert. Sometimes we can get up to 200mm of rainfall in the mountains. Groundwater is the only permanent source of freshwater in the country. Hence fresh water supply in the UAE will be limited in the near future and we need to try and find ways to manage this crisis at the earliest.

According to the Global modeling and scenario analysis for the World Commission on Water for the 21st century in February 2000, it was reported that most of the desert areas of the world are in the severe water stress category. The percentage of area in this severe stress category varies from 5% (Central Africa) to 88% (Middle East).

Although the government has taken several steps recently to address this problem, it looks like to we need to put in more efforts to maintain this resource sustainability. The country has relied on desalination plants for some time now, but it is not a cost-effective and environmental –friendly option for the future.

So, because we have so little of this precious resource, it is important we use it wisely and carefully. Schools must take the lead in reducing Water consumption

To achieve this, we will need to very carefully manage our demand for water. How do we manage water flow in our taps? Can we look at simple ways to control our water consumption? What kinds of plants do we have in our school garden? Should we replace our lawn in the school grounds with an artificial turf? Should we be using the hose pipe to clean our school buses and cars? Is it that important? We need to look at green issues and what we can do as students, as schools, as individuals, as families, and as communities to help protect our resources.

Applying the Eco-School methodology, you should be able to come up with simple water conservation measures and consider using water saving technologies in your school that will significantly lower your water usage. Besides reducing your environmental impact, what you will see is some good financial savings as well!

Click here for Top Water saving tips

And if you have interesting videos featuring water saving activities in your school, please send them to xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.