WORLD WATER DAY
March 22

...make a difference...

Do One Thing for a Better World.
Together We Make a World of Difference!

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Water is one of the most basic of all needs -- we cannot live for more than a few days without it. And yet, most people take water for granted. We waste water needlessly and don't realize that clean water is a very limited resource.

More than 1 billion people around the world have no access to safe, clean drinking water, and over 2.5 billion do not have adequate sanitation service. Over 2 million people die each year because of unsafe water - and most of them are children!

World Water Day, observed on March 22, is an important opportunity to educate ourselves and our communities about this most vital of all resources, explore ways to conserve it and protect the waters of our rivers, lakes, oceans and streams. It's a chance to address the issue of helping those without access to clean drinking water. World Water Day is also a time for ethical and moral discussion about water rights, particularly the growing trend of corporations taking over community access to water.

On March 22, 2005, the United Nations launched the UN International Decade for Action on Water, to help bring greater awareness to the global community about the growing problem of access to clean water for everyone.

"We must treat water as if it were the most precious thing in the world, the most valuable natural resource. Be economical with water! Don't waste it! We still have time to do something about this problem before it is too late."
-- Mikhail Gorbachev

Do One Thing for a Better World

- Participate in an event to raise awareness about conserving water and access to clean water for all.
- Conserve water: check your faucets and toilets for leaks; don't let the water run while you brush your teeth.
- Share DO ONE THING Cards.

Water Links

- UN World Water Day (worldwaterday.org)
- World Water Council (worldwatercouncil.org)
- Sweetwater Alliance (waterissweet.org)
- To locate a World Water Day event near you: WorldWaterDay.net
"Fierce national competition over water resources has prompted fears that water issues contain the seeds of violent conflict."

-- Kofi Annan
"The destruction of aquatic ecosystem health, and the increasing water scarcity, are in my opinion the most pressing environmental problems facing human kind."

-- Maude Barlow
"Creating a world that is truly fit for children does not imply simply the absence of war. It means having the confidence that our children would not die of measles or malaria. It means having access to clean water and proper sanitation...It means building a world fit for children, where every child can grow to adulthood in health, peace and dignity."  -- Carol Bellamy
"We must begin thinking like a river if we are to leave a legacy of beauty and life for future generations."

-- David Brower
"It takes 1,000 tons of water to produce 1 ton of grain. As water becomes scarce and countries are forced to divert irrigation water to cities and industry, they will import more grain. As they do so, water scarcity will be transmitted across national borders via the grain trade."

-- Lester Brown
"We can use our scientific knowledge to improve and beautify the earth, or we can use it to ... poison the air, corrupt the waters, blacken the face of the country, and harass our souls with loud and discordant noises..."

-- John Burroughs
"In an age when man has forgotten his origins and is blind even to his most essential needs for survival, water along with other resources has become the victim of his indifference."

-- Rachel Carson
"We can meet the resource problems of the world -- water, food, minerals, farmlands, forests, overpopulation, pollution -- if we tackle them with courage and foresight."

-- Jimmy Carter
"Protecting the health and safety of all Americans doesn’t have to come at the expense of our economy’s bottom line. And creating thriving companies and new jobs doesn’t have to come at the expense of the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, or the natural landscape in which we live. We can, and indeed must, have both."

-- Bill Clinton
"Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans."

-- Jacques Cousteau
"We have the ability to provide clean water for every man, woman and child on the Earth. What has been lacking is the collective will to accomplish this. What are we waiting for? This is the commitment we need to make to the world, now."

-- Jean-Michel Cousteau
"UNICEF is helping mothers realize their dreams for the future — a future in which the basic needs for a child’s survival: food, clean water and simple health care — are guaranteed."

-- Jane Curtin
"Every human should have the idea of taking care of the environment, of nature, of water. So using too much or wasting water should have some kind of feeling or sense of concern. Some sort of responsibility and with that, a sense of discipline."
-- The 14th Dalai Lama
"To the naked eye, our oceans are beautiful. But scientists tell us that all of the world’s fisheries will collapse by 2048, unless we change how we manage them. Help protect our oceans so the next generation can also enjoy their bounty."

-- Ted Danson
"Clean water and health care and school and food and tin roofs and cement floor, all of these things should constitute a set of basics that people must have as birthrights."

-- Dr. Paul Farmer
"When the well is dry, we learn the worth of water."
-- Benjamin Franklin
"We must treat water as if it were the most precious thing in the world, the most valuable natural resource. Be economical with water! Don't waste it! We still have time to do something about this problem before it is too late."

-- Mikhail Gorbachev
"So many people that I've seen can't get clean water. It's a crime."
-- Jay-Z
"Solutions and technologies exist to provide clean, affordable drinking water anywhere in the world. These solutions will save lives, reduce financial burdens, foster peace, and relieve millions of people from worrying about their next drink of water."

-- Jewel
"If we could ever competitively, at a cheap rate, get fresh water from saltwater, ...(this) would be in the long-range interests of humanity which could really dwarf any other scientific accomplishments."

-- John F. Kennedy
"We in Government have begun to recognize the critical work which must be done at all levels—local, State and Federal—in ending the pollution of our waters."

-- Robert F. Kennedy
"...if we want to meet the obligations of our civilization and our culture which are to create communities for our children that provide them with the same opportunities for dignity and enrichment as the communities that our parents gave us, we've got to start by protecting that infrastructure; the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, the landscapes that enrich us."

-- Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
"All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts... The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land."

-- Aldo Leopold
"Water is the most precious, limited natural resource we have in this country...But because water belongs to no one - except the people - special interests, including government polluters, use it as their private sewers."

-- Ralph Nader, 1971
"Water has been a source over so many years of erosion of confidence, of tension, of human rights abuses, really, of so many in areas whose traditional water supplies have been controlled and depleted by occupational authorities. That must stop if we’re going to be able to develop a climate for peace."

-- Queen Noor of Jordan
"For many of us, water simply flows from a faucet, and we think little about it beyond this point of contact. We have lost a sense of respect for the wild river, for the complex workings of a wetland, for the intricate web of life that water supports."

-- Sandra Postel
"We’ve poisoned the air, the water, and the land. In our passion to control nature, things have gone out of control. Progress from now on has to mean something different. We’re running out of resources and we are running out of time."

-- Robert Redford
"The cleanup costs of polluting a river, injecting pesticides into the ground water, or putting noxious gases into the air have not been figured into the cost of the manufacturing or agribusiness that put them there in the first place. Historically, the economic incentive has been to pollute."
-- Gloria Steinem
"As we watch the sun go down, evening after evening, through the smog across the poisoned waters of our native earth, we must ask ourselves seriously whether we really wish some future universal historian on another planet to say about us: 'With all their genius and with all their skill, they ran out of foresight and air and food and water and ideas,' or: 'They went on playing politics until their world collapsed around them.'"

-- U Thant
"Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man."

-- Stewart Udall
"You cannot have peace without human rights, democracy, gender equality, and clean water. Look to the root causes of war and you will find, in their reverse, the root foundations of peace."

-- Cora Weiss