

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
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NEWS RELEASE
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**SRBC SPONSORS A WATER CONSERVATION CONTEST AT THE
PERRYVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
6th Graders Competing for Most Water Saved**

HARRISBURG (March 7) – The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) today kicked off a 6-day water conservation contest involving the entire 6th grade class at Perryville Middle School, Cecil County, Maryland. From March 7 through March 12, the nine 6th-grade classrooms are competing against each other for the title “Most Water Saved.” The results of the contest will be announced on March 21 in an assembly of all 6th-grade students and their teachers. This assembly will be open to the media.

The contest, which is designed to target home water use, calls for students to record how much they use in their homes each day. The goal is for them to find ways to reduce their water use during this 6-day period. The classroom that records the most amount of water saved by its students from March 7 through March 12 will win the contest.

SRBC Executive Director Paul Swartz said that the idea for a water conservation project for grade-school students first came from Delegate David Rudolph, who represents district 35B in Cecil County.

“As an educator, Delegate Rudolph certainly understands the value of educating students on water conservation,” said Swartz. “SRBC is pleased to work with teacher Whitney Paxon and Principal Diane Rudolph to arrange this interactive and fun water conservation project.”

Swartz said, “Students, like adults, often learn by doing and seeing their results first hand.”

As part of today’s kick off, SRBC staff members, Ann Devine and Gil Hirschel, instructed students and their teachers on the contest and demonstrated the best methods for students to use when recording their home water use. Devine and Hirschel also explained: (1) the importance of conserving water; (2) how much water is used, on average, in a home for activities such as washing clothes and dishes, showering and bathing, flushing toilets, and washing hands and brushing teeth; (3) how much water is wasted by leaking pipes and toilets and dripping facets and showerhead; and (4) the many ways that people can save water in the home.

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According to Swartz, water conservation education is a proven method for raising awareness and changing the way society views water—many people, unfortunately, view water as a limitless resource.

“By educating our young students through hands-on projects like this one, they come to realize that they can make a difference,” said Swartz. “In fact, young people often become the messengers, spreading the word about water conservation to their families and friends.”

Below are some indoor water conservation tips:

- Repair leaking toilets
- Replace older toilets that use more water with newer, low-consumption toilets
- Repair leaking and dripping faucets
- Take shorter showers
- Use washing machines and dishwashers only when loads are full
- Do not run water continuously while shaving, brushing teeth, or washing dishes by hand
- Install new shower heads and sink faucets equipped with water saving devices, such as aerators or spray taps
- Refrigerate tap water to avoid running the faucet waiting for cold water

The following are some water facts:

- Each person, on average, uses about 62 gallons of water per day;
- A leaking toilet can lose up to 200 gallons per day;
- A leaking faucet can lose up to 11 gallons per day; and
- Appliance water use (in gallons):

<u>conventional appliances</u>		<u>water-saving appliances</u>	
conventional toilet	3.5/flush	low-flow toilet	1.6/flush
conventional shower	3-10/minute	low-flow shower	2-2.5/minute
top-loading washer	40-55/load	front-loading washer	22-25/load
dishwasher	8-12/load		

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is the governing agency established under a 100-year compact signed on Dec. 24, 1970 by the federal government and the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland to protect and wisely manage the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin. The Susquehanna River starts in Cooperstown, N.Y., and flows 444 miles to Havre de Grace, Md., where the river meets the Chesapeake Bay.