



# Less Water



**In July 2010, the UN General Assembly recognized the right of every human being to have access to sufficient water that is safe, acceptable, affordable and physically accessible.**

We rely on clean, plentiful water to survive. Yet we are heading towards a water crisis. Key water sources are being overdrawn or tainted with pollution. Dirty water has become the world's biggest health risk, picking up toxic chemicals, dirt, trash and disease-carrying organisms as it runs off our roads and roofs into our rivers. Meanwhile changing climate patterns are increasingly threatening our water sources, with scientists predicting that many of the most profound and immediate impacts of climate change will relate to water, from more severe and frequent droughts to unprecedented flooding.

**Scarcity.** A lack of water to meet daily needs is a reality today for one in three people around the world. Globally, 780 million people lack access to clean water, and the problem is getting worse as cities and populations grow.

**Pollution.** When water from rain and melting snow runs off roofs and roads into our rivers, it picks up toxic chemicals, dirt, trash and disease-carrying organisms along the way. This, as well as pollution from factory farms and industrial plants, can contaminate our drinking water.

**Spread of Disease.** Poor water quality can increase the risk of diarrheal diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever and dysentery. Globally, the lack of access to clean water and sanitation kills children at a rate that is equivalent of a jumbo jet crashing every four hours.

## Recommended JustOne Actions

Fix a Leak ◇ Turn Off Water While Brushing Teeth

Shorten Your Shower ◇ Water Your Garden at Night

Use a Rain Barrel ◇ Install a Low-Flow Shower Head