

## GREENING YOUR HOME

It is easy to become overwhelmed by the magnitude of environmental problems facing our planet today but it just as easy to make a conscious decision to be part of the solution and your household is the best place to start.

Regular article will appear in the "Meander Chronicle" to take you step-by-step through areas of the household to encourage environmental responsibility and help realise your goals.

Here are some guidelines on conserving **WATER** in your home.

- ◆ REUSE – Virtually all water coming out of a tap can be used at least twice.
- ◆ TAPS - Switch off taps properly after use and repair leaky taps. Turn off taps whilst brushing your teeth.
- ◆ DISHES – Wash dishes once or twice a day in shallow sinks of water.
- ◆ SHOWERS – Take short showers. Turn off the taps whilst you soap up. Use low-flow showerheads. Showers are more economical than taking a bath.
- ◆ TOILETS – Place a sealed plastic litre bottle filled with stones in the cistern. Repair leaky cisterns.
- ◆ RAIN TANKS – Install rain tanks to collect water from your gutters and use this water in the garden.
- ◆ GARDEN – Mulch your garden to reduce water loss and water your garden thoroughly once a week and early in the day (avoid windy days) to minimise evaporation. Compost helps to retain water in the soil. Monitor sprinklers to make sure they are watering the required areas. Do not cut lawns lower than 4 cm as this reduces root depth and encourages evaporation. Indigenous plants suited to your region require water when first planted but are soon able to survive between rain showers. Sweep paved areas rather than washing them.
- ◆ PIPES – repair leaking pipes. Check your water metre is stationary when no water is being used in the house – there may be an underground leak that needs investigating. Check if your geyser may be leaking
- ◆ WASHING MACHINE and DISH WASHERS – use the machine only when you have a full load.
- ◆ CARS – wash using a few buckets full rather than a hose.

You will not only save water but you will also reduce your water bill. There are many more ways to save water so – make every drop count!

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