

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



OnCampus ecoAmbassadors

OnCampus ecoAmbassadors are college students who implement projects from EPA's partnership programs to help carry out the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment. The program is open to ANY college student, regardless of program, age, or background. All interested students are encouraged to participate.

Did you know?

- Every year, leaks in the home waste an average of 10,000 gallons of water, enough to fill a backyard swimming pool.
- Common types of leaks found in college dormitories and apartments include leaking toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves which are all easily corrected.
- Turning off the tap when brushing your teeth could save up to 8 gallons of water.
- Saving water also helps reduce the electricity needed to pump, heat, and treat the water.

Learn More

For more information, please visit:
www.epa.gov/WaterSense/water_efficiency/fix_a_leak.html



Fix a Leak Week

Fix a Leak Week, sponsored by EPA's partnership program WaterSense®, is held annually in March to encourage people to take simple steps to save water and money on utility bills. WaterSense supports efforts to protect the future of our nation's water supply by promoting water efficiency and enhancing the market for water-efficient products, programs, and practices. The WaterSense Label makes it easy to find and select water-efficient products that meet water efficiency and performance criteria, perform well, help to save money, and encourage innovation in manufacturing.

Goals of Fix a Leak Week

- Raise awareness about water resources on your campus
- Help students make water-efficient choices and adopt simple daily activities that reduce water use
- Implement water-saving best practices at your college or university to help reduce the amount of water generated daily

If You're Interested In:

- Meeting new people
- Planning fun events to generate interest in water use and resources
- Designing creative messages
- Empowering and motivating students to change their water usage behavior

... then Fix a Leak Week is for you!

See page 2 for a step-by-step checklist
for Fix a Leak Week.



Students Taking Action

The University of Northern Iowa highlighted Fix a Leak Week by creating a booth in the student union with a miniature fountain to demonstrate water-saving procedures. OnCampus ecoAmbassadors also worked with other campus groups to ensure that the plumbing in campus buildings was in good working order.

Fix a Leak Week is ideal for students pursuing degrees in business, communications, education, environmental science, engineering, and public policy.

Checklist for Fix a Leak Week

Follow the steps below to plan a Fix a Leak Week on your campus.

- 1. Commit to saving water and take the Fix a Leak pledge.**
Visit www.epa.gov/watersense/water_efficiency/fix_a_leak.html to research Fix a Leak Week and to take the Fix a Leak Pledge. Your commitment to save water and protect diminishing resources will inspire other students to do the same. Check the websites listed at the right to get ideas about conserving water and raising awareness.
- 2. Conduct a baseline survey of your dorm.**
Lead a baseline survey of your dorm to identify how many leaking sinks, toilets and showers you can find. For a leaking sink, place a beaker under the faucet to determine how much water leaks over an hour's time. You can also check for toilet leaks and check the water meter for your dorm.
- 3. Work with your school to make fixing leaks a priority.**
Contact your school administrators and facilities team on campus to talk about what's currently being done to conserve water and how your efforts can help raise awareness on campus. Work with the facilities team to establish a baseline for water use and ensure that fixing leaks is part of their maintenance plan.
- 4. Teach others to report leaks and take action to save water.**
Develop a process for students, faculty and staff to identify and report leaks around campus. Print signs for dorm floors and classroom hallways to remind students to report leaks, to turn off unattended faucets, and to take shorter showers. Many sign templates are available on EPA's WaterSense website. Be creative!
- 5. Find out how much money your school can save.**
Use the Water Savings Calculator to estimate water usage, energy and cost saving benefits by using the WaterSense labeled products. The calculator is available at www.epa.gov/WaterSense/calculate_your_water_savings.html. Use this information to motivate students and other campus staff to join in and help reduce water usage by installing WaterSense fixtures.
- 6. Examine key messages.**
Research and examine the key messages for raising awareness on campus about conserving water resources. Share your messages with fellow students, faculty, and other participants to encourage and motivate them to participate in Fix a Leak Week.
- 7. Host a Fix a Leak Week event and take pictures.**
Host an event for fellow students, faculty and other participants to encourage the continued implementation of Fix a Leak Week activities at your campus. Check out the tips for scheduling events on the right. Print out educational materials and Fix A Leak Week business cards to hand out. Take pictures at your event to send to EPA and to share on the OnCampus and WaterSense Facebook pages.
- 8. Track your results.**
Develop a method for tracking your school's efforts to save water. Learn more about other Fix a Leak Week events happening in your area to possibly present your results to other interested participants.
- 9. Fill out your completion form.**
Record the information that you will need to report to EPA on the event completion form, including your name, date of the event, name of your college or university, a description of the event or events, the number of interactions (include any interesting comments), and additional comments.

Resources

EPA WaterSense Websites

www.epa.gov/WaterSense/
www.epa.gov/watersense/water_efficiency/fix_a_leak.html
www.facebook.com/EPAwatersense

Water Savings Calculator

Use the Water Saving Calculator to estimate your water usage, energy and cost saving benefits. The calculator will estimate your savings based on the number of WaterSense labeled products installed, people per household, current water heating method, and length of time for savings. Go to www.epa.gov/WaterSense/calculate_your_water_savings.html.

Tips for Successful Events

1. Find a suitable space.
2. Put up posters to advertise the event.
3. Create a Facebook event.
4. Ask friends to spread the word.
5. Plan to have snacks available – find out if you can get donations.
6. Arrange for music at the event.
7. Arrive early to set up the space, including snacks and music.
8. Use sign-up sheets to record attendance.
9. Create a written summary of the event.

EPA Contact Info

WaterSense Hotline
(866) WTR-SENS; (866) 987-7367
EPA OnCampus Team
EPAOnCampus@epa.gov

EPA OnCampus Websites

Visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/oncampus

 Join the conversation at www.facebook.com/epaoncampus