

Conserve water.... Turn off that light.

When it comes to water and energy, in most cases, you can't have one without the other. Water is integral to the recovery of oil and gas, the processing of oil and in the creation of electricity. Yet, without electricity, it wouldn't be possible to pump, treat, move, heat, or recover more water. The processes are unendingly tied together. A study done by the U.S. Geological Survey says that 48% of all the water consumed in the U.S. goes to power plants. In California, the treatment, storage, and transportation of water accounts for nearly 20% of all electricity used in the state.

In Texas the average household uses 14,570 kWh of electricity each year. Depending on the method used to create the electricity, conventional power plants can use between 0.40 gallons per kWh and 0.60 gallons per kWh. A hydroelectric plant can lose up to 55 gallons per kWh to evaporation. The U.S. average is 2 gallons per kWh and in Texas, due to the high number of natural gas fired plants, the average amount of water used per kWh is low at only 0.43 gallons.

The average Texas home uses approximately 6,250 gallons of water annually without even opening the first tap or taking a single shower. A way we can conserve water outside of the usual "don't brush your teeth with the water running" is by simply turning off a light. A single 100 watt light bulb left on all day will use over half a gallon of water for the creation of electricity, over 227 gallons annually. You can save even more by replacing all of the old incandescent light bulbs in your home with compact fluorescent lights (CFL). CFLs use nearly 75% less electricity as a standard incandescent light bulb and can be expected to last 8 years.

Another simple way to conserve is to turn off the TV when no one is watching it. A typical 42" LCD TV uses over 200 watts per hour and a 50" plasma TV can use over 350 watts per hour. If both of those TVs were to run 24-7 for one year, they would use over 625 gallons of water. By turning the TVs off you will not only save on your electric bill, but you will also be conserving significant amounts of water. The more electricity you save the more water you save.

By conserving electricity, not only will you reduce the amount of water and fuel used to create electricity but you will be lessening your "carbon footprint". By replacing one 60 watt incandescent light bulb with a 13 watt CFL you can save 470 kWh of electrical use, and if your electricity comes from a coal fired plant you will reduce the carbon dioxide expenditure by 730 pounds over the life of the CFL bulb.

Sometimes these numbers seem insignificant but when added up throughout your home and added to the over 120 million other homes in the U.S., these numbers get very large, very quickly. Save water, turn off that light!!!