

Water is Life: Singapore's Journey to Household Sustainability Through Water Conservation

✓ Water as a vital resource

- Water is a vital resource, especially in a densely populated and highly urbanized nation like Singapore. As the city-state grows, so does the importance of ensuring sustainable water management. This talk will explore how Singapore has successfully made household water conservation a critical aspect of its national strategy, leading to a more sustainable future.

✓ The Need for Water Conservation

- In Singapore, water is not only a necessity for daily life but also a resource under pressure. With limited natural water resources, Singapore has developed a robust water strategy, known as the "Four National Taps." These include local catchment areas, imported water, desalinated water, and NEWater. However, even with such advanced water management systems, water conservation at the household level remains critical for ensuring the sustainability of this finite resource.

✓ Singapore's Water-Saving Initiatives

- ✓ • To encourage households to reduce water consumption, PUB (Singapore's National Water Agency) has rolled out several initiatives aimed at fostering a culture of water conservation. These initiatives have made significant strides in reducing household water usage while fostering sustainability.

✓ • Water-Saving Tips for Households

✓ • Personal Habits




- Perform a half-flush whenever possible
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth
- Turn off the shower when soaping

✓ • Food Preparation

- Keep water used from your food prep to water plants
- Wash fruits and vegetables using a container
- Wash dishes in a filled sink

✓ • General Household

- Switch to more water-efficient appliances
- Fix water leaks quickly
- Reuse leftover plain water
- Do the laundry in a full load
- Tighten taps to prevent water drips
- Use a watering can to water plants
- Re-using rice water for plants

- ✓ • **Outdoors**
 - Do not run a hose to wash your car
 - Wash your porch and driveway with recycled water
 - Add a shut-off nozzle to your garden hose
 - Do not water your plants on rainy days
- ✓ • **Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS)**
 - Introduced to help consumers identify water-efficient products, WELS provides labels for items such as taps, showerheads, and washing machines. The more ticks a product has, the more water-efficient it is. Households can save water by choosing WELS-certified products, which ensures they are contributing to national water-saving efforts
- ✓ • **Water-Saving Devices**
 - PUB also encourages the use of water-saving items, such as thimbles and water-efficient taps, which reduce flow rates without compromising performance. These devices are made available to households through various distribution programs 
- ✓ • **Smart Water Meter Initiative**
 - One of the most innovative tools introduced by PUB is the Smart Water Meter, which gives households real-time insights into their water consumption. These meters allow users to track their daily water usage, set monthly goals, and receive notifications of potential leaks or unusual consumption patterns. By leveraging this technology, households can adjust their habits based on actual usage data, which not only conserves water but also reduces utility bills. 
- ✓ • **Promoting a Water-Saving Culture**
 - The national campaign, "Save Water. Big ways, small ways. All OK!", launched annually during Singapore World Water Day, emphasizes the power of collective action. Households are encouraged to adopt water-saving habits that range from fixing leaks promptly to optimizing water usage during household chores. By fostering awareness, the campaign has cultivated a conservation-oriented mindset across the nation. 
- ✓ • **Achievements, Looking Forward & Conclusion**
 - Singapore's efforts in water conservation have led to a steady decline in per capita water consumption.
 - 2020 - 154.5 litres per person per day
 - 2021 - 152.3 litres per person per day
 - 2022 - 150.1 litres per person per day

2023 - 147.9 litres per person per day

- The goal is to further reduce this through continued education, technological advancements, and community participation. As Singapore continues to grow, household water conservation will remain a cornerstone of its sustainable development strategy.
- Water is life, and in Singapore, the journey toward sustainable water management starts at home. By making small changes in our daily habits, using water-efficient products, and embracing technologies like smart meters, each household plays a critical role in safeguarding this precious resource for future generations.

More details about Speeches by Mr. Sony Djuana (Senior Interior Designer, Singapore):

<https://we.tl/t-uFgfpTzOf6> or

<https://youtu.be/zk7ceBlyNvQ?si=xJmg9LwYHnJD4F9W>