



e-Newsletter

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Children's Water Festivals: Hands-On Water Education

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As part of its public education efforts, Water Systems Council helps interested communities to plan and implement Children's Water Festivals. These exciting, educational events showcase water education through hands-on activities. The educational experience is for students and teachers, and enables students to:

- Explore water through interactive and dynamic activities;
- Learn about drinking water, groundwater, watersheds, surface water, and water quality topics in engaging presentations; and
- Gain a better understanding of their water supply and a greater appreciation for what a truly precious resource it is.



Festival activities include:

- Edible Aquifers
- Water Jeopardy
- Plenty of hands-on activities, presented by water and natural resource experts



FUN FACT:
6 gallons of water
are needed to
produce 1 serving of
French fries.

*Source: United States
Geological Survey (USGS)*

The next Children's Water Festival will be held May 18, 2010 at Columbia-Greene College in Hudson, New York. If you would like to be a part of this exciting festival (teacher, presenter or volunteer) or would like more information, please contact Dawn Greene at 202-625-4387 or e-mail dgreene@watersystemscouncil.org.

Environmental Corner: Conducting an Energy Audit

Do you want to make your home more energy efficient? Most homes can benefit from energy improvements to reduce energy consumption and lower utility bills. To assess how much energy your home uses in a year, take a look at your utility bills for the amount of energy used. Convert the amounts to British thermal units (Btu) using the following conversion factors:

- 1 kilowatt-hour of electricity = 3,414 Btu
- 1 cubic foot of natural gas = 1,025 Btu
- 1 gallon of propane = 91,000 Btu
- 1 gallon of oil = 138,700 Btu
- 1 cord of wood = 19 million Btu



Divide your total annual Btu amount by the sum of the cooling and heating days in your climate. Then divide this number by the square footage of your house. Most houses fall between 10 and 20. If your number is greater than 20, your house is very inefficient and can benefit

Please see *Energy* on page 2



Questions about your well?
Contact the wellcare® Hotline at
1-888-395-1033 or visit
www.wellcarehotline.org

Energy from page 1

from improvements such as repairing air leaks, servicing heating and cooling equipment, and more.

A water well can be a very economical and environmentally-friendly way to provide water to your home and family. As a well owner, you can do your part for your family and the environment by keeping your well and its parts in good working order. Doing so improves your well's energy efficiency, lowers your utility bills, and lengthens the life of your well.

To make sure your well is operating as efficiently as possible, follow these tips:

- Check your home's water fixtures for leaks. If there is a water leak somewhere, the pump could be running much more than normal.
- If the pressure tank loses its air charge, it is said to be waterlogged. If your tank is water logged, the pump may run continuously, using more energy and causing extra wear and tear on your well pump.
- Have your well inspected by a professional well contractor annually.

For more information on conducting an energy audit, visit

www.energysavers.gov/your_home/http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home.

wellcare® Tips: Your Well Inspection

Wells require minimal maintenance to provide a safe drinking water supply sufficient to meet all the water needs of modern households. Some basics of well maintenance can be done by the well owner, but keep in mind that only a professional should perform maintenance that requires opening the well cap or servicing the well components.

To ensure that your well is operating as efficiently as possible, you should have your well inspected by a professional well contractor annually. A professional well contractor should also be called if there is any change in your water, such as a change in taste, color or odor.

A well inspection may include: 1) reviewing the well's history (so it is important to keep good records), 2) examining the well's location, 3) inspecting well components, 4) testing the water quality and 5) determining the well yield/flow. For more information on well maintenance, see the **wellcare®** information sheet, "Well Maintenance" at www.watersystemscouncil.org/infoSheets.php.

Kids Corner: Coloring Contest

Did you ever wonder how water gets from the ground to your home? Check out our [coloring page](#) to learn how your water well brings water from the underground aquifer to your tap!

Parents: Your child can color this page and win a prize! Print this page, have your child color it and return it to us by March 31st. One winner will be chosen to win a copy of our children's book, *The Big Rig*, and have his or her name printed in our next issue! Download the picture [here](#).



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An Energy Star washing machine uses 18-25 gallons of water per load, compared to 40 gallons for a standard washer.

Source: Energy Star, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



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