

In the Texas panhandle there are many current issues dealing with the sustainability of our planets resources. The most significant topic in our area is decreasing lake water levels. There is an enormous threat that most, if not all, lakes in our area are being drained to satisfy unnecessary water usage. If we take an immediate initiative there are many steps we can take to ease this threat.

The Texas panhandle has suffered from a very major drought the past few years, which is causing a more immediate usage from lakes and other water supplies for household luxuries. Many people in our area are using water to sustain unnecessary household

---

luxuries including excessive watering of yards, long showers, and leaving the faucet on while brushing your teeth and washing your hands. Also one of the biggest ways water is wasted at the household level is leaking water faucets. There are many remedies for these issues that are very cost efficient. One of the biggest remedies that would not cost anything at all would be to take less time in the shower. I'm not saying that one should not take the time to clean themselves; I'm just asking to be conscious about preserving our planets most favored resource. Other ways to preserve our water usage is to fix faucets and other leaking water sources. This remedy is not as cheap as taking shorter showers but it is a very easy way to preserve our water and save money on the local water

---

bill in the long scheme of life. After this fix, if one still feels that they are not getting the maximum conservation of our water supply, there is an even more expensive remedy.

This remedy includes buying censored water faucets or foot pedal sensitive faucets. This items are a bit more expensive at the appliance store, but if one uses them right there is not way one could not save money and preserve water. Another remedy many people overlook when on the topic of water conservation is washing whole loads of laundry

rather than just washing a shirt one wishes to wear. This would cut back many gallons of unnecessary water usage by itself. There are also many ways farmers and ranchers in our area can preserve water usage. For farmers there are several ways in which they irrigate their crops, which include row water irrigation system, sprinkler irrigation, and last but not least is the drip irrigation system. Each of these irrigation systems have their pros and cons but there is one that is up and coming to be very water efficient. The row water irrigation system is the most cost efficient because it requires an irrigation well and pipe to string out across the fields. This irrigation system does not conserve water very good at all because the excess water is mainly evaporated into the air. The next most cost efficient irrigation system is the sprinkler irrigation system. This system requires mores start up money to install the sprinklers, but is more conservative that row water irrigation. The least cost efficient and most conservative irrigation system is the drip irrigation system. The way this system works is by installing an underground hose that acts as a soaker hose in order to get water to the roots the most efficiently. This system's only downfall is its initial price per acre for installation. There is also another way for farmers and ranchers to use less water and in essence it requires no extra expense, just plant more water conservative crops. Corn is a very inefficient crop when water conservation is the topic. From the time it is planted it requires constant irrigation for it to reach maximum yield.

The next big issue is trying to gain the support from the local households and farmers and teaching them the steps we could and should take to preserve our precious resource.

Some of the easiest ways to gain support and teach them about our situation would be to gain the radio and business support and then let it grow from there. Once one got one

small businesses support, other businesses would see how much of an impact it has had on the people and they would want in on the advertisement opportunity. Another way to gain support in which is already being exploited is gaining support from local radio and news broadcasting stations. Many of the local news and radio stations do an excellent job of reminding citizens to preserve water during the hottest and driest part of the year.

Many people are already very conscious about water usage and conservation, but in reality if we all put out a bit more effort and teamwork skills, our small area could make a huge impact in water conservation.

---

---