

## SC Envirothon Water Pledge

*As a participant in the South Carolina Envirothon, I am aware that water is a renewable resource, but it may not always be available in the potable form we need for consumption.*

*With increasing demands on our water supply due to enormous growth in the state, higher amounts of point and non-point source pollution, and continuing drought conditions, I pledge to "Watch My Water".*

*I believe that every effort to conserve water, no matter how small, has an impact on our environment, and that one person can make a difference. Together the 2008 participants in the South Carolina Envirothon will make a difference in protecting our surface and ground-water supplies.*

*I will:*

*Reduce my personal consumption of water by:*

- Taking a shorter shower, or a more shallow bath*
- Turning off the water while brushing teeth*
- Turning faucets off tight enough to prevent drips*
- Fixing any leaking pipes at home, or notifying a parent to fix*
- Collecting rainwater in a barrel to water plants with*
- Washing full loads of dishes and laundry, or set for smaller size loads*
- Establishing a compost pile to reduce water use by garbage disposal*
- Using compost as a soil amendment in the yard to reduce watering requirements*
- Watering lawn once a week, one inch deep, or set sprinkler system accordingly*
- Setting mower length higher*

*Protect the water quality in my watershed by:*

- Making sure lawn fertilizers are applied according to package directions*
- Using slow-release fertilizers*
- Redirecting gutters so water drains into a pervious and/or vegetated area*
- Addressing any vehicle leaks immediately by servicing the vehicle*
- Washing my car on the lawn instead of the driveway*
- Disposing of any vehicle related (oil, anti-freeze) or household products (paint) properly*
- Making an effort to walk, ride a bike, or use some other form of transportation for short trips*

*Conserve energy, and therefore water, by:*

- Using cold water for all rinsing of laundry, and warm for whites instead of hot*
- Shutting off lights in rooms when not in use*
- Replacing conventional light-bulbs with energy-efficient ones*

*Signed, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*