

WATERSHED

Powerpoint Script

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The facts

WHAT ABOUT WATER?

Water is vital to our lives.

80% of our bodies are made up of water and over two-thirds of our planet's surface is covered by water.

We turn on the tap, water comes out.

We bathe in water and play in it.

We swim in it and sail on it.

We landscape our gardens with it.

We flush it away, drain it away and let it run off our nicely cleaned cars.

We have our choice of bottled water: flavoured, still, sparkling, tonic and more brands of water than we can imagine!

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More than 1 billion people don't have access to clean water.

That is about one sixth of the world's total population. And the problem is getting worse.

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By 2025 it is estimated that more than 3 Billion people could be affected by serious water shortages.

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Unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation kill 4,000 children everyday.

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Half of all hospital beds in the world are filled with people suffering from water-related diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea and trachoma (an eye disorder).

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4 out of 10 people around the globe do not have access to a simple basic toilet and one fifth have no source of safe drinking water.

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In some parts of the world, women have to walk up to 10 miles to collect water and are sometimes attacked on their journeys to a water source that is often not clean.

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THE UK ISN'T EXACTLY SWIMMING ALONG EITHER

The average person in the UK uses around 50% more water everyday than we did just 25 years ago.

Our faster-paced lifestyles, new technology and more appliances mean that our dishwashers, power showers and washing machines are helping us use more water than ever before.

At the same time our average rainfall (since November 2004) has been down by almost 30%, leaving reservoirs and underground stores at dangerously low levels. **

In the UK we each use an average of 160 litres of water every day.

The average person in the developing world uses just 10 litres a day.

In the UK we buy 1.6 billion litres of bottled water a year even though our tap water is safe and clean.

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The simplest of actions can make a world of difference not only to the water situation here in the UK, but to the global climate and to our neighbours in other countries too.

Here's a few ideas to whet your appetite.+

TURN OFF THE TAP WHILE BRUSHING YOUR TEETH. This simple action can save up to 5 litres of water a minute!

TAKE A SHOWER INSTEAD OF A BATH. A 5-minute shower uses about a third of the water of a bath. But remember that power showers can use more water than a bath in less than 5 minutes.

BOTTLE IT. Try keeping a bottle or jug of water in the fridge instead of running taps until the water runs cold.

REDUCE AND RE-USE. Wash dishes, vegetables and fruit in a bowl rather than under a running tap, the leftover water can be used for watering house plants.

GET STEAMY. Use the minimum amount of water required when you boil water in saucepans and kettles; that way, you'll save energy as well as water.

FULLY LOADED. Half-load programmes on dishwashers and washing machines use more than half the water and energy of a full load. Therefore, wait until you have a full load before switching the machine on.

GET A METER. In 2003, the average household spent £245 per year on water. Households that had water meters spent only £209 a year. Consider asking your water company to install a water meter - they are required to do so where feasible for free. If you don't have a meter your water bill is based on the rateable value of your property and has little to do with the amount of water you actually use. Unless you have a household with three or more occupants, you're likely to save money on your water bill. ++

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Even simpler actions and choices can save lives of people in the developing world. Water is vital to development and in almost every situation is the first step to improving health, education, livelihood for a better future.

Here's a few ways you can make a difference:

GIVE A LITTLE, GIVE A LOT. On average, just £10 will provide a family with clean, safe water for life!

BUILD A WELL. Funding the cost of a whole well will improve the lives of potentially thousands of people. The cost of a building a well starts from just £700, depending on what country it is in. Some creativity and your network of friends and family is all it takes to raise the money to give a whole community the gift of water for life.

WATER TAX. Every time you use water put some loose change into a bottle. You will soon find that you have enough to help others have the same clean water privilege as you.

SAVED MONEY SAVES LIVES. Installing a water meter can save you money. Use the money you save on your own water bills to save lives.

SHARE THE INFO. Sharing this information with others, your workmates, school friends, family and neighbours will help save lives too. Why not start a water challenge with the people you know to help save water and save lives.

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In the community of Koma Rock, Kenya, women would spend hours everyday walking to get to water.

Even after travelling so far, the water source was contaminated and would inevitably put their family's health at risk of contracting horrible diseases and symptoms like Cholera, Ocular Swelling, Lesions, Chronic Diarrhoea and other major skin infections.

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Many in the village of Koma Rock have suffered and even died because of the contaminated water they were forced to drink, use, and carry so far.

Even if the disease didn't kill people in this community, there was always the risk of being attacked by wild animals on the way to collect water.

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The people of Koma Rock; water is quite literally a matter of life or death everyday.

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But help is in the pipeline. This community has been transformed. The local Salvation Army Church in Koma Rock wanted life to change in their village. And so they took the transformational steps of highlighting the needs of their community.

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Their story engaged people like you who heard about Watershed and resulted in the drilling of a 70 metre bore hole, installation of a hand pump and a concrete apron to collect the run off as well.

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The water is readily available to everyone in the village, services the nearby primary school for drinking and cooking and has very tangibly transformed the lives of over 2000 people in the village. All for just £5,500. But the story doesn't stop here.

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By building the capacity of the people in the community the villagers of Koma Rock are now taking responsibility for other community development projects.

There is now a very active and well organised community group who are not only successfully managing the new water resource but are also trying to raise support for activities such as the building of a dispensary (construction already underway) and commencement of a secondary school (there is already a Salvation Army Primary School, and land has been set aside for a Secondary School).

To take greater advantage of the availability of water, the development committee want to bring electricity to the area so that they can pump water to the dispensary and school facilities in the future, as well as to homes and shambas for irrigation. They have already raised £1,500 from within the community towards the £4,500 estimated cost of electrification and have plans for the sustainability of the current water resource as well as for the management of any future expansion.

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Water is life

Let's transform communities like Koma Rock and the lives of people like Ida all over the world.

Save water. Save Lives.

Saving water ensures that we look after the precious resource that flows so freely for us. Money saved on your water bills combined with your help in raising funds can save lives.

Make the Change... Save Water. Save Lives.

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For information and a resource pack you can contact us or visit our website.

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The Salvation Army at work slide

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