



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child is participating in Sonoma Water's instructional series, "***Be a Water and Energy Hero!***". This program consists of two 60-minute, hands-on, science lessons. We encourage you to discuss these topics with your child.

Lesson 1: Water

1. **Where our drinking water comes from:** Our high quality tap water comes from underground along the Russian River. Ask your child how this water is cleaned. (Hint – It's the gravel in the ground!)
2. **Drought and water conservation:** Your child will learn about actions they can do at home to ensure they are using only the water they need. Ask your child what they can do to use less water.
3. **Wastewater treatment plant:** Water used to shower, flush the toilet, wash dishes, and do laundry goes to a wastewater treatment plant. The water is treated before it is used to irrigate plants.
4. **Storm drain pollution prevention:** Storm drains help prevent flooding by collecting and channeling excess rainwater to the nearest stream. Water that goes down storm drains is not treated. Ask your child about how to prevent pollution from entering our streams.

Here are four ideas to get you started:

1. Don't litter.
2. Carry bags to cleanup your pet's waste.
3. Gather and place yard waste such as grass clippings and leaves in your green bin.
4. Take your car to a self-wash or full service car wash.

Lesson 2: Energy

1. **Non-renewable energy sources:** Your child will investigate a piece of coal and learn where it comes from and how it is transformed into electrical energy.
2. **Renewable energy sources:** Your child will have the opportunity to use a solar panel to harness the sun's energy to create enough electricity to power a small fan.
3. **Climate change:** The electricity we depend on every day is contributing to changes in Earth's climate. Your child will learn about greenhouse gases and our changing climate. Renewable resources are a positive choice to reduce our impact on Earth's climate. Ask your child what they can do to reduce their impact.
4. **Saving water, saves energy!** Water and energy are connected. A great deal of energy is needed to extract, treat, and deliver potable water. Your child will receive a compostable bamboo toothbrush. Please help your child remember to turn off the faucet while they brush. When it is time for a new toothbrush, you can compost this toothbrush in a green bin.

If you have any questions, please contact us at WaterEd@scwa.ca.gov.

Thank you!

The Water and Energy Education Program

The Water and Energy Education Program is made possible through Sonoma Water, the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership, Sonoma Clean Power, the Russian River Watershed Association, and the following local water providers: the cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Petaluma, Sonoma, Cloverdale, Healdsburg; the Town of Windsor; California American Water; and the North Marin and Valley of the Moon Water Districts. Thanks to our partnership with the Russian River Watershed Association, stormwater education is also available in Ukiah and unincorporated Sonoma County. Our water and energy education programs are free thanks to funding from these partners. For more information, please visit www.sonomawater.org