



# Take the WWEMA Water Challenge!

## Did you know?

- The American Society of Civil Engineers has given U.S. water infrastructure and wastewater infrastructure each a **D grade!**
- According to the U.S. Geological Survey's 2010 Water Census, average U.S. daily water use is **355 billion gallons.**
- The U.S. experiences an estimated **240,000 water main breaks** per year. According to the American Water Works Association, replacing these pipes could cost more than **\$1 trillion** over the coming decades.

## Do **YOU** take water for granted? Take the Challenge and find out!

### What is the WWEMA Water Challenge?

The WWEMA Water Challenge is a fun way to show just how much we rely on clean, safe water in our everyday lives. WWEMA is challenging our federal, state, and local legislators, as well as other community leaders and concerned citizens, to “turn off your tap”—whether literally or figuratively—to discover what health, hygienic, and convenience challenges you face without easy access to water.

We want you to Tweet, post on Facebook, and otherwise share your experiences with the world. **Our goal is 5,000 Tweets. So please be sure to use the #NoWater hashtag!**

### How long will the Challenge last?

We're running the Challenge from March 12 through Water Week (April 12-18, 2015). You can decide for yourself how long you want to go without tap water, whether you try it for a few hours or longer. Spoiler alert: It gets harder the longer you try. (Especially since you may need to flush your toilet at some point. Because, yes, toilets count, too. So do dishwashers, laundry, food prep ... you get the idea.)

### Why should I take the Challenge?

By taking the Challenge, you'll help raise awareness of how much we all rely on water, and how important it is to ensure our communities have access to water now and into the future. Because we tend to take water for granted, it can be hard to secure adequate funding for this vital resource. Just because those pipes are underground, doesn't mean we can afford to let them be “out of sight, out of mind”!

### What else can I do?

Recently, Reps. John Duncan (R-TN) and Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) introduced into Congress **H.R. 499**, the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Investment Act of 2015. This act would eliminate state volume caps on private activity bonds, resulting in billions of dollars of potential investment in water and wastewater projects at very little cost to the federal government. We expect a companion bill to be introduced into the Senate soon as well. **Please consider co-sponsoring this important bipartisan legislation.**

In addition, you can **support an increase in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's State Revolving Fund program**, which provides low-interest loans to communities that otherwise may not be able to afford critical water and wastewater projects.

For details (and to see whether we've reposted your Tweets on our site!), visit [www.wwema.org](http://www.wwema.org).