



District 410A "Green Living"



March 2015

Tap into Water Wisdom

South Africa's population is about 52million and rising. **World Water Day on 22 March** reminds us that we need to ensure there's enough of this precious resource for us all—now and in the future.

Here's the profile of average household usage: Garden = 35%; Toilet flushing = 29%; Shower & bath = 20%; Laundry & cleaning = 13%; Cooking & drinking = 3%

Here's how you can cut down:

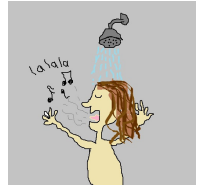
Garden: choose water-wise plants. Water only in the early morning & evening. Replace large lawn area with paving.

Toilet flushing: install a dual flush system (high uses 8lt per flush; low uses 4lt).

Shower & bath: cut down daily shower time by a few minutes. Run shallower baths.

Laundry & cleaning: use only dishwashers & washing machines with full loads. Rinse dishes in a bucket and pour water on the garden.

Cooking & drinking: rinse vegetables & fruit in a container, use the remaining water for pot plants. Keep clean drinking water in the fridge so you don't waste water running the tap till it's cold. More tips → www.waterwise.co.za/site/home.html



Green gardening

17 March is St Patrick's Day and it's fitting that our thoughts turn to all things green. Green gardening is eco friendly using compatible plants to suit the climate and local conditions.

Grow plants that need moisture on the south and east-side of buildings; and drought-tolerant plants in north- and west-facing areas.

Group plants that need the most water near the house and in containers on the patio for easy access.

No chemicals or harmful sprays are used in a green garden ensuring a safe habitat for wildlife.

Introduce flowers to attract butterflies, bees, insects and birds as pollinators.



Quiz time!

What does biodegradable mean? When a product can be broken down and absorbed back into the Environment. Some things take longer than others! Test your knowledge—how long would these items take to biodegrade?

Send your answers to me (eawilkie@gmail.com) by 27/03:

Paper serviettes

Banana peel

Newspaper

Woollen sock

Cigarette butt

Steel can

Polystyrene cup

Plastic bottle

Disposable nappy

Car tyre



Beach cleanup



Well done to Gordon's Bay LC for taking part in their first beach clean up on 7 March. It is a community based event held on the first Saturday of each month and the club plans to support this initiative on a regular basis. *Thank you* for making a difference.

Each year there is a vast increase in the number of marine animals injured or entangled in debris found in the oceans and on our shoreline.

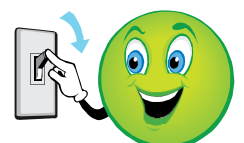
Which club will take up the challenge and clean their beach or park?

19 September is Int'l Coastal Clean up Day—take part and help save our planet.

Earth Hour—28 March—20h30 to 21h30

Earth Hour was famously started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007. Since then it has grown to engage more than 162 countries. Join the world for the big switch off of all non-essential lights to raise awareness about energy saving. Use your power to change climate change.

Make your promise and register today on www.earthhour.org



De Liz