

Water: Protecting Our Most Precious Resource

Water is a vital part of life. The changing climate is causing more severe droughts and floods and is affecting people's access to water worldwide. Atlanta needs a plan to be more water resilient and residents of metro Atlanta need to take climate change seriously and do things in their homes to conserve water.

People's demand for water will continue to grow but as the world gets hotter, easy access to water gets more challenging. We need to plan to keep water accessible for all people in Atlanta. The city government needs to have a plan in the case of these extreme events like droughts and floods. According to the World Economic Forum, water catastrophes and droughts are in the top five global threats by impact since 2017.

Researchers say that floods will get "flashier" meaning that they will be for shorter periods, however, the intensity of the floods will grow. Along with this, the runoff of these floods can drain into close water sources while picking up different contaminants on the way. The runoff can contaminate water sources and jeopardize access to potable water. Floods can easily endanger the safety of the water we are meant to utilize. Floods are a common occurrence in Atlanta so we need to have a plan to keep our water clean and safe. In my opinion, the city should stockpile clean water and have a system to alert citizens of contamination in case of emergency, special arrangements should be made for our most vulnerable citizens like children, the elderly, and the homeless. Some of our local big companies, like Coca-Cola should partner with the city to form an emergency plan where they can shift production to provide water resources in case of citywide contamination. We should also check our current water infrastructure to be sure it is sound.

Water is the basis of life. Without accessible clean water, we could not function normally. So, what can the citizens of Atlanta do to fight against this and use less water? In your home, there are many little things you can do. You can turn off the faucet while you're brushing your teeth or shaving, make sure there are no leaks in your pipes, and try to curb how much water you use daily like watering plants and lawns and time in the shower. Looking at the bigger picture, we as residents of Atlanta and fellow human beings must value water as the precious resource that it is.