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Before Adversity – Every Citizen’s Duty

Water – the life-giving, unlimited, and indiscriminate source. However, it is at risk in Georgia as global warming worsens. Because necessity, enjoyment, and business depend on it, the use of 50 gallons a day from metro-Atlantans is frightening. However, by changing harmful practices and educating the next generation on water conservation and climate control, a brighter future is possible – before adversity.

Worsened by climate change, water pollution affects billions of people worldwide. Two types of water pollution are point source and nonpoint source. Point source water pollution refers to toxins from a known place; non-point source is from an unknown source of pollution. Runoff may absorb toxins and drain into freshwater lakes and rivers, intoxicating them. Global warming, contributing to water pollution, is a long-term change in climate since the 1800s. Fossil fuel burnings produce emissions, trapping the sun’s heat and raising water levels. As a result, Earth is 1.1°C warmer than in the late 1800s. Worse, droughts and flooding rise, contaminating water and threatening lives. Too many children under age five die because of toxic water, and by 2040, 25% of children worldwide will have unclean water.

We need to change ways we approach water conservation and climate change now. Fixing leaks, reusing water, and education can help conserve water. To control climate, riding bikes, driving electric vehicles, and putting food in a compost instead of a landfill is helpful. Countries have planned to control global warming, agreeing to the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Paris Agreement. We Georgians also can improve water conservation and global warming.

Educating the next generations is crucial because one day, they will make decisions that can affect water and climate. At my school, the administration recently installed water filters. They show how many bottles, which could become litter, have been reused, which is 1,048 so far. The next generations' stances on water conservation and climate control are also vital. One teacher admitted she believed climate control is important, but it is discouraging how few people support it. She feels as though her steps toward climate control are ineffective. Another believes climate control is crucial and attempts to contribute. My opinion is that all of these answers are important; while I feel discouraged at how ineffective my impact seems, I find ways to protect Earth and, consequently, conserve water. These answers are not to be discouraging, but eye-opening. Climate control is not by one person; through millions impact ripples.

Georgia's clean water supply is at risk. The use of 50 gallons per day from each metro-Atlanta citizen added to global warming effects is frightening. However, educating the next generation on water conservation and climate change and changing harmful practices to water conservation in our businesses and neighborhoods can set an example for the world to follow. Necessity, business, and forms of enjoyment depend on this life-giving, unlimited, and indiscriminate resource. A better future is possible – before adversity.

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