



2020 High School Video Contest

What is the Human Water Cycle?

We know about the water cycle — evaporation, condensation, precipitation — the process of people getting their water from the natural environment, using it, and eventually returning it to the natural environment. We are fortunate in the Atlanta region to have clean, well-managed water resources. The water professionals at the utilities and water authorities of the 15-county metro area work hard to provide water and wastewater services. It is imperative that we do not take these services for granted and that we ensure a commitment to investment in water infrastructure now and in the future.

Please answer the following questions while preparing your video:

- » Define and describe the human water cycle. How does the water get from a water source to your tap? Most metro Atlantans get their water from surface water.
 - Step 1:** Your water utility pumps water from the source to the water treatment plant to be cleaned.
 - Step 2:** Once it meets high standards, the water is ready to be pumped to your home or school.
 - Step 3:** It goes down the drain to a wastewater treatment plant, where it is again cleaned to high standards.
 - Step 4:** Clean water is returned to the environment, typically from the same source it was pulled from.
- » Think about all the things you do in a day that require clean water. What infrastructure (treatment plants, pipes, pumps, etc.) is required to ensure you have access to water and wastewater treatment services?
 - In the 15-county Metro Atlanta region there are over 50 drinking water and wastewater systems. When your family pays your monthly water bill, did you know that you are also paying for infrastructure updates, maintenance, and repairs as well as water and wastewater treatment? Updating, maintaining, and repairing infrastructure is a critical part of keeping the cycle going.

In addition to the two required topics please consider addressing the following:

- » What basin does your drinking water come from? To what does it return after it is treated?
- » The human water cycle depends on the water in our natural environment being clean and plentiful enough that we can process it and use it for what we need. What role do individuals, governments, and/or businesses play in conserving and protecting our water resources?
- » You may also take a tour of your local water treatment facility and interview a water professional.
**If you want to capture footage for your video, be sure to get permission in advance.*

Resources

- » Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District – northgeorgiawater.org
- » Value of Water – thevalueofwater.org
- » My Drop Counts – mydropcounts.org