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## The Necessities of Water Conservation

Consider life without access to clean water. No more brushing your teeth, showering, or quenching your thirst whenever you want. It is often difficult to appreciate the luxury of purified water with the plethora surrounding us at all times. Water is vital to all living organisms, and we as a human race should work toward a common goal of sustaining this integral resource.

According to the Grace Communities Foundation, the US relies on public water systems to treat and deliver just over 44 billion gallons of clean water each day to our homes, schools and businesses. Many professions including manufacturing, farming, recreation, and energy production depend on the preservation of water. In order to protect pure water, it is imperative that communities avoid water contamination, especially in streams and wetlands which provide drinking water for one in three Americans. Pollution is a big factor in impeding water purification along with how unaware many people are of the concerns encompassing its conservation.

Rural Governments should focus on creating policies that will promote efforts to sustain clean water in upstream lakes and other bodies of water. Action can be taken to address contamination and offer new approaches to the practices that often cause a significant amount of damage: industrial chemicals, eutrophication, or other unregulated contaminants. Occupations that include the use of these products should be informed of ways to minimize their contributions to water pollution. This can incorporate ensuring the next generation's exposure to the negative effects that come along with a lack of water purity. Partnering with local school districts to provide education programs along with volunteer opportunities would be beneficial to increase interest. Giving public access to watershed data could also be a good idea so that people can get a first-hand look at water protection aspirations and hopefully further understand its importance.

A fun way to bring a community together and get them excited about water conservation is by creating a rain garden. They are not only a beautiful addition to any neighborhood, but also an easy way to prevent polluted runoff. Storm water from upstream drainage areas such as roofs, driveways and lawns end up in the rain gardens that would otherwise flow into local streams and lakes which would then receive all the pollutants as well. Rural governments could encourage their local neighborhoods to partake in this cool, environmental conscience activity.

Clean water is essential to life and sustaining it cannot be taken lightly. The government can work on getting information out on how to help preserve water, and improve each community's understanding of the consequences that would come along with a lack of this easily acquirable opulence. Though it may seem like it, the world does not have an endless supply of pure, drinkable water. So next time you are in the shower or drinking a glass of ice, cold water, think about how different life would be without it.