

STORMWATER REDEFINED

Less than 1% of the world's fresh water (about 0.007% of all water on earth) is readily accessible for direct human use.^[5]

Eighty-eight percent (88%) of all diseases are caused by unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene.^[6]

A person needs 4 to 5 gallons of water per day to survive.^[1, 2] The average American individual uses 100 to 176 gallons of water at home each day.^[3, 4] The average African family uses about 5 gallons of water each day.^[4]

What happens to storm water on campus?

Stormwater does not get filtered or treated before it is released into the White River and its tributaries. As rainwater travels to the storm drains, any debris or chemicals it picks up goes straight to the river. Ball State's many paved surfaces accumulate oil, grease, cigarette butts, and various other pollutants that are carried to the storm drain every time it rains.

Why should you care?

Muncie and communities downstream use the White River as a source for drinking water and these contaminants greatly affect and impair the quality of the water. Some effects include an increase in harmful algae growth and a decrease in the number and variety of aquatic life. These contaminants also have an impact on a much larger scale, affecting not only the White River, but waterways downstream as well, all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

What can you do?

Even the smallest (and unconscious) of actions can have large consequences when entire communities are involved. Awareness and small changes in your habits can help. Such as:

- Throw away cigarette butts in ash trays and not on the ground
- Do not dump anything or throw trash into stormdrains
- Direct storm drains from house gutters into grass to filter pollutants before seeping into stormdrains

For More Information pick up a Stormwater Redefined Brochure, visit these websites, or become familiar with student organizations such as Students for a Sustainable Campus (SSC) or Emerging Green Builders (EGB):

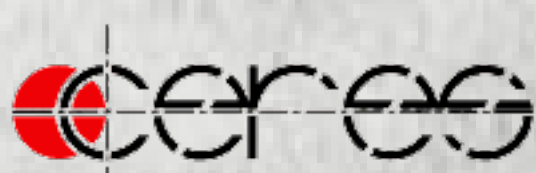
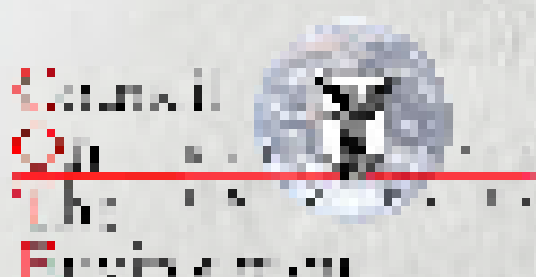
BSU Council On The Environment (COTE)
<http://www.bsu.edu/cote/>

BSU Center for Energy Research/Education/ Services (CERES)
<http://www.bsu.edu/ceres/>

Friends of the White River
<http://www.friendsofwhiteriver.org/index.html>

White River Watershed Project
<http://www.whiteriverwatershedproject.org/index.html>

Brochures can be found anywhere Ball State information is distributed on campus.



SOURCES

- [1] The Sphere Project Handbook "Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response."
[2] Les Roberts "Diminishing standards: How much water do people need?" [in Forum: Water and War, International Committee of the Red Cross (1998)].
[3] U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet "Water Q&A: Water Use at Home."

- [4] World Resources Institute, 1998-99 and 1996-97. "A Guide to the Global Environment."
[5] World Health Organization Fact Sheet "Health in Water Resources Development."
[6] World Bank, All About: Water and Health, CNN, December 18, 2007.