

Groundwater Foundation launches Groundwater Awareness Community Challenge

LINCOLN - During the month of May, the Groundwater Foundation, in partnership with the City of Crete, will be launching a Groundwater Awareness Community Challenge for residents in Crete. Residents will be encouraged during May to reduce the amount of water they use in and around their households to ensure sustainable, clean groundwater for future generations.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average family of four can use 400 gallons of water every day, and on average, approximately 70 percent of that water is used indoors. The bathroom is the largest consumer of indoor water and a toilet uses the highest percentage. The challenge in Crete will compare the amount of water used during the month of May in 2011 to the usage in the past three years. In 2010,

20,082,922 gallons were used by the community, while in 2009, 23,076,697 were used and in 2008, 24,298,365.

"It's important that people understand that they can make a difference," Crete Public Works Director Tom Ourada said.

As part of the "Let's Keep It Clean!" program, residents of Crete learned about the importance of groundwater – the water they drink, the water that grows their food. During that time, residents also became familiar with different things they can do to protect and conserve groundwater.

The challenge further encourages residents to make groundwater sustainable. How can residents do their part to reduce the amount of water that they use on a daily basis?

Here are a couple of quick tips with more to follow in the future:

- Take showers of less than five minutes instead of baths;
- Run full loads of dishes and laundry;

Water outside only when necessary.

Also, be sure to "like" the Groundwater Foundation Facebook page and then join the Groundwater Awareness Community Challenge event for a chance to win a prize given away weekly. Be sure to mention something that you are pledging to do.

For more information about The Groundwater Foundation and the Let's Keep It Clean program, call 1-800-858-4844 or visit www.groundwater.org. The project is sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the Nebraska Environmental Trust.