



## World Water Monitoring Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2009

Water shortages and availability are just two of the major challenges to face climate change and are likely to be the source of many challenges facing the world in the 21st Century. Increasing global consumption of water resources across the world has led to significant reduction of ecosystems and affects issues such as biodiversity, health, agriculture to name a few.

World Water Monitoring Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September is aimed at raising awareness and involvement in the protection of water resources and the quality of water around the world.

“The need for water is fundamental for all living things. This need knows no boundaries, and it is critical that individuals become aware of the ways in which they can impact water quality.” <http://worldwatermonitoringday.org/index.html>

Through a water test using a tool kit which can be ordered on the WWMD website people can sample local water bodies. The test provides an analysis of quality parameters such as temperature, pH, and clarity and dissolved oxygen. Results can be send to the WWMD to be shared with other participants around the globe. The collected data can provide an annual glance at local water quality, and gives community groups, students, citizens, scouting groups and others the basic skills needed to participate in more formal citizen monitoring programs.

### Water Footprinting



One result of global and regional water issues is that Companies will come under pressure to reduce their water usage and increase efficiency. As a tool, for analysing water shortages companies are starting to consider calculating their water footprints of the products they sell

and their own operations.

See an example here: <http://www.waterfootprint.org/?page=files/WaterFootprintCalculator>

“Conducting a water footprint means measuring the water used to produce a product. It includes use of blue water (rivers, lakes, aquifers), green water (rainfall in crop growth), as well as and grey water (water polluted after agricultural, industrial and household use).”

[http://www.wwf.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/safeguarding\\_the\\_natural\\_world/rivers\\_and\\_lakes/water\\_footprint/](http://www.wwf.org.uk/what_we_do/safeguarding_the_natural_world/rivers_and_lakes/water_footprint/)

However, the water footprint measures the amount of water that has been used. Another important fact is where the water is taken from. Water taken from an area where there is already a water shortage can have a serious effect on society or the environment.

