


# 10 Things You Can Do to Protect the Commons of Water

1. Become an **advocate** for water
2. Honor and protect waters as a commons, **a vital resource we all share and own together.**
3. Learn as much as you can about all aspects of threats to water, especially **privatization schemes** in the U.S. and around the world
4. Don't buy bottled water—**drink tap water!** In most cases its healthier for you
5. **Carry your own** water bottle that you fill with tap water
6. Conserve water—**be conscientious** about how much water you use and how much you NEED.
7. Remember that everything that goes down the sink, on your lawn, in your garbage and into your storm drain eventually **finds its way into our water.** Be thoughtful and vigilant.
8. Learn about your sources of water—ask questions to **learn about where your water comes from.** What challenges and problems do your water sources face?
9. Celebrate the fact that our **taxes fund public water works**, which provide us with clean safe drinking water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
10. Join efforts to **preserve democracy in water systems.** Your voice needs to be heard. Use it on issues related to promoting water as part of the public commons – in your city, your state, your country and the world.

*Cut this out and put it on the fridge or bulletin board.*

 *Give one to a friend.*

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## Background Information: The Water Commons

Water is essential for life on earth. Water is a commons, the trust of all humanity. Water is precious and sustains all life on earth. The right to water, like the air we breathe, is an inalienable, individual and collective right for all species. Each member of the human community has the right to water in quantity and quality sufficient to life and basic economic activities. **Water belongs to the Earth and all species and, therefore, must not be treated as a private commodity to be bought, sold and traded for profit.**

The intrinsic value of the Earth's water precedes its utility and commercial value and therefore must be respected and safeguarded by all political, commercial and social institutions. Creating the conditions necessary to ensure access to water for the vital needs of every person and every community is an obligation of society as a whole and the collective responsibility of citizens of the world.

The global water supply is a shared legacy, a public trust, a fundamental human right, and, consequently, a collective responsibility. Only by recognizing these principles at local, national and international levels can the commons be adequately protected.

**To find out more about reclaiming water and our other natural, societal and cultural commons visit our website:**

[onthecommons.org](http://onthecommons.org)

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