

KEY POINTS FROM FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL ON “KEEPING ARIZONA’S WATER GLASS FULL”

“I was shocked to find how much power water holds. I am glad to be informed on this issue and learning ways to preserve water.” – Anna Ruiz-Parga, Mesa High School Student

ROLE OF WATER IN OUR DAILY LIVES

- Water is essential to our existence.
- Water is used for everything from personal hygiene to cooking to producing energy.
- Much of our state is dependent on water for agricultural production.
- A continuous supply of clean drinking water must be provided.
- Our natural environment and outdoor recreation are supported by water.

ARIZONA’S UNIQUE RESOURCES, STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES RE: WATER

- The Colorado River, natural aquifers, dams, reservoirs and canals are unique resources.
- Effective utilization of groundwater and underground storage are strengths.
- Drought and limited rainfall present challenges in predicting the supply of surface water.
- The heat and desert environment result in dry conditions in many areas.
- Competing demands from other states for water resources like the Colorado River create challenges.

BEST WAYS TO SUPPORT A SUSTAINABLE WATER SYSTEM

- Educate children about water conservation through a “Water Wise” program in schools.
- Use incentives and disincentives to encourage less and more efficient usage of water.
- Pursue technological advances for the treatment and reuse of water.
- Support the development of cost-effective desalinization projects.
- Encourage the installation of water-saving landscaping.

MESSAGES FOR ARIZONA’S ELECTED LEADERS

- Make the availability of clean drinking water for all a priority.
- Plan ahead for future water needs.
- Protect Arizona’s water rights nationally and regionally.
- Examine regulations re: water policy, consumption and conservation.
- Set an example individually and in the community for the efficient use of water.

COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

- Take shorter showers and turn off the running water when it is not needed.
- Educate members of our own household on water conservation.
- Talk to people when we see them wasting water and offer a better solution.
- Become more educated about water rights, particularly in our area.
- Start a water club or program in our community to educate others on water issues and usage.

FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL LOCATIONS:

Mesa Community College
Central Arizona College - Superstition Mountain Campus
Cochise College - Douglas Campus
Central Arizona College - Maricopa Campus
Northern Arizona University
Pima Community College - Community Campus
Rio Vista Recreation Center, Peoria
Central Arizona College - Signal Peak Campus
Arizona Western College - Parker Learning Center
Arizona Western College - Yuma Campus
Arizona Western College - San Luis Learning Center
Yavapai College - Verde Valley Campus
Central Arizona College - Aravaipa Campus
South Mountain Community College

“Programs that encourage and open conversation such as the one we had here today amongst young leaders in our communities are crucial to the future well-being of the state of Arizona.” – Caleb Webb, Cochise College SGA Senator

