Reduce Your Water Use

There are numerous ways that you can lower your water use while at Smith.

Here are a few ideas:

- While brushing your teeth, turn off the faucet
- Take shorter showers
- Report leaks to Facilities Management
- Use one drinking glass or reusable bottle a day to save water by washing fewer dishes
- Don’t leave the water running while washing dishes

Look for this year’s No Shave November house competition, which challenges students to cut down their personal shower time. Organized by the house Sustainability Reps.

Produced by the Center for the Environment, Ecological Design, and Sustainability (CEEDS) and the Office of Environmental Sustainability (OES)

CEEDS exists with one purpose: to graduate women who excel at integrating knowledge across disciplines in support of environmental decisions and action.

Come to CEEDS in Wright Hall or visit our website: smith.edu/ceeds to learn more.
Water

Where does Smith get water?
Smith’s potable water comes from the City of Northampton Water Division.

Annual Use
In 2009, Smith used 45,556,993 gallons of potable water. That is equivalent to 222 glasses of water every day to 4,400 students, faculty, and staff. It is enough to fill the Smith pool 177 times!

In 2009 58% of the water used at Smith was used by the houses and Dining Services. 15% by academic and administrative buildings, 9% by the cooling plant, 6% by Sabin-Reed, 5% by heating, 5% irrigation, and 2% by the gyms.

Additional Considerations
Hot water use, from showers, not only impacts the environment in terms of water usage, but also in terms of fuel consumption. By taking shorter showers, individual students can make an impact on Smith’s overall water use.

Future Goals
Smith’s long term goals concerning water consumption are outlined in strategies of measurement, efficiency, and behavioral conservation. Smith hopes to install water metering systems with a focus on residential houses and science buildings. The water metering in houses can help students reduce their water consumption through competitions between the residence houses. In terms of efficiency, smith is currently working on replacing shower heads, faucets, and toilets with higher efficiency models.

Smith hopes to:
- reduce potable water consumption by 11.8 million gallons (24%) by 2015.
- Eliminate use of potable water for irrigation by 2015.
- Reduce thermal demand associated with heating water by 3,384 MMBtu’s and GHG emissions by 328 MT eCO2 per year by 2015.
- Reduce potable water consumption by an additional 1.5 million gallons between 2015 and 2030.