

Farm Bureau Article: February, 2011
There's No New Water!

Dear Lynn,

My fifteen year old son is very interested in learning more about California water recourses and conducting community service activities in this area. Does 4-H provide resources that would help us in this area?

Sincerely, Maria Agua

Dear Maria,

The National 4-H Council has just released a new High School water education curriculum called "*There's No New Water!*" Written and pilot tested in California, this water conservation curriculum explores the natural water cycle, the human interventions that affect water quality and quantity, analyzes the interface between rural, suburban, and urban interventions in the hydrologic cycle, and culminates with the identification of service learning projects to address local water conservation issues.

The student centered, inquiry-based guide features 12 different activities that actively engage high school aged youth in real-world explorations focusing on current issues impacting water use and conservation. Each unit provides background information, a guide to concepts and vocabulary, identifies specific life skills youth will gain as a result to participating in the activity, links to academic subject matter and identifies appropriate National Science Education Standards supported by the activities.

An example of how the curriculum addresses real-world issues is found in unit four, where students learn concepts and skills to map watersheds. The unit provides learning opportunities for students to read topographical maps to understand and map point and nonpoint source pollutants in watersheds, as well as learn how to predict impacts and identify solutions.

Additionally, there is an entire unit dedicated to service learning projects in your watershed. This unit guides youth through a step-by-step process of how to identify needs in your community, preparing the project, experiencing service, evaluating the project and how you share the impacts of your project with others.

To learn more about the *There's No New Water Curriculum*, link to: <http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/newitems/theres-no-new-water/08420.aspx> or contact the authors: Martin Smith: mhsmith@ucdavis.edu or Steven Worker: smworker@ucdavis.edu