

**North Country Legislative Representatives**

**Elizabeth O’C Little** (45th Senatorial District) Albany Office: Room 903, Legislative Office Bldg, Albany, NY 12247; 455-2811; Fax 426-6873. Plattsburgh Office: 305 West Bay Plaza, Plattsburgh, NY 12901; 561-2430 email: little@senate.state.ny.us

**Janet Duprey** (114th Assembly District) Albany Office: LOB 937, Albany, NY 12248; 455-5943. District Office: 202 U.S. Oval, Plattsburgh, NY 12901; 562-1986 email: dupreyj@assembly.state.ny.us

**Teresa Sayward** (113th Assembly District) Phone 455-5565; Fax 455-5710 email: saywart@assembly.state.ny.us

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**Sen. Hilliary Rodham Clinton**  
Room 476 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-3201  
Tel: 202-224-4451 Fax: 202-228-0282  
Email: senator@clinton.senate.gov  
Web: http://clinton.senate.gov/email\_form.html

**Governor David A. Paterson**  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224  
518-474-8390 http://161.11.121.121.govemail

**Sen. Charles Schumer**  
313 Hart Office Bldg.,  
Washington, DC 20510  
Tel: 202-224-6542 Fax: 202-228-3027  
Email: senator@schumer.senate.gov  
Web: http://www.senate.gov/~schumer

**Rep. John McHugh** (23rd Congressional District)  
Room 2333, Rayburn House Building,  
Washington, DC 20515-3223 (Plattsburgh 563-1406)  
Tel: 202-225-4611 Fax: 202-226-0621  
Email form: www.mchugh.house.gov/zipauth.htm  
Web: www.house.gov/mchugh/



**Does the Current State of Politics Get You Angry?  
Don't Just Explode!  
Join the League of Women Voters  
and Do Something About It!!**

Join an organization that makes an impact in the community, the state and the nation.  
Nonpartisan: We do not support candidates, elected officials or political parties.

**Membership Information:** call Myra Decker 643-2742 or send:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ \$45.00 Individual

(Check desired level) \_\_\_\_\_ \$65.00 Family

Make check out to: **Plattsburgh Area League of Women Voters**

Mail to: Myra Decker, 7 Woodland Hills, Morrisonville, NY 12962

# THE INFORMER



**League of Women Voters  
of the Plattsburgh Area**

January 2009 No. 5

**7 Woodland Hills  
Morrisonville, New York 12962**

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Visit Plattsburgh LWV Web Site at [www.plattsburgh.ny.lwvnet.org](http://www.plattsburgh.ny.lwvnet.org)

Special

### OFFER TO THE PUBLIC

If you wish to be put on the League's mailing list and receive the League Newsletter, "The Informer", to keep in touch about the League's activities, please submit \$5.00 to cover cost of postage and printing for 10 issues. Make check payable to **League of Women Voters, Plattsburgh Area** and send it to **Myra Decker, 7 Woodland Hill, Morrisonville, NY 12962.**



Watch for an email asking for your help in these areas: Website, telephone, First Friday Forum, Studies, Candidate forums, Observer Corps, Voter Service, your areas of special interest



### Study on Sprawl

The League is beginning a study on sprawl. If you are interested, contact **Myra Decker 643-2742**

**REMEMBER:** Donations to the local League of Women Voters are **tax deductible** if the checks are made out to the **LWV Educational Fund.**

### League Calendar 2008-09

- January 9, 2009 (NOTE DATE CHANGE) First Friday Forum: Tourism
- January 31, 2009 Annual Pot-Luck Meeting (see p. 2)
- February 6, 2009 First Friday Forum: The State of the Lake
- March 6, 2009 First Friday Forum: "Learn About Ovarian Cancer"
- April 3, 2009 First Friday Forum: "Promoting a Healthy Environment"



### Steps to access the Informer:

Log on to [www.plattsburgh.ny.lwvnet.org](http://www.plattsburgh.ny.lwvnet.org). Click on "The Informer" either on the side bar or main part of the page. Click on <http://www.lwvny-bulletins.org/Capital%20Region/Plattsburgh.htm> The next page enables you to click on the latest or past editions of the newsletter. It will ask to either open it up or save it to a disk. You can then print it if you desire. You will get a larger print if you use legal size paper.



*Invite someone to join the League of Women Voters today!*

### Plan Ahead

**LWVNYS 53rd Biennial Convention: Syracuse, NY, the weekend of May 15-17, 2009.** The Convention theme will be "Fair, Vibrant and Strong." In addition to the usual outstanding speakers, presentations, and entertainment, this Convention will introduce a pre-convention training workshop on Friday afternoon, May 15. This Training will provide more extensive opportunities for training and sharing of experiences in areas most often identified as challenging. While aimed at the new Leader, there will be modules geared specifically to the seasoned Leader. Consider coming to Syracuse early to participate in this new Training.

### Greetings from Florida



Hi Everyone,

It is that time of the year to start making those new year resolutions. Keep the League in mind when you decide that "I have to be more involved in my community." That is our challenge here in Florida too. Partly due to our voter service activities this year, our membership has been slowly increasing with enthusiastic members.

The December speaker talked about Tax Cuts and its Impact on Lee County. We have a 1 billion dollar deficit in Florida. Money is simply not available. There has to be new thinking on how to approach this problem with private and public partnerships. Lee County depends on construction and tourism for its tax dollars. Commercial construction is still good. On a more positive note, 20,000 people settled in Lee County last year. Babcock Ranch has been purchased to help preserve natural areas. We have smart growth initiatives, boating access has increased, and a Human Services Crises Prevention Center. A Human Services Council and a Triage Center were created. The latter helps to keep nonfelons from jail. Hopefully dramatic changes are on the way to deal with the 20,000+ homes in foreclosure in Lee County, the increased crime rate and unemployment and the need for repair to the infrastructure.

We also had a focus group for obtaining community information in preparation for the development of Lee County's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. The Lee's Investment in Everyone Steering Committee hope to have a plan ready in February 2009. Stay tuned for an update.

Keep warm. Have a wonderful New Year. Stasia

Florida's Wildlife



tree frog

Great Blue Heron



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attorney in San Francisco, and was promoted in June, 1920, to assistant attorney general in Washington, D.C. Her job was to oversee prosecution of violators of the Volstead Act-the 1919 act of Congress providing for federal enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment, the Prohibition amendment.

Her first job, however, under U.S. Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, was to try to round up woman's votes for Mitchell's bid for the Democratic presidential nomination at the San Francisco national convention. Adams also made her own bid for president, on the thirty-seventh ballot.

In 1921 Adams left public service, going back into private practice in California and continued to be active in Democratic politics.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Adams to serve as assistant special counsel under California Supreme Court Judge John Preston to handle the prosecution of two government cases (1935). In one of them, U.S. v. Standard Oil, Adams won a \$7 million judgment.

The following year, Adams was elected to head the National Pro-Roosevelt Association of Woman Lawyers.

Entering the political arena again, Adams was elected in November, 1944, to a twelve-year term on the California Third District Court of Appeals. For ten of those twelve years, Adams was presiding judge-the first woman to hold such a high-ranking judicial position in California.

In 1950 she sat on the California Supreme Court to hear a single case, again earning the distinction of first woman to occupy such a position.

(Taken from *The Book of Women's Firsts* by Phyllis J. Read and Bernard L. Witlieb, 1992 p. 5-6.) Photo from [http://books.google.com/Who's\\_Who\\_among\\_the\\_Women\\_of\\_California](http://books.google.com/Who's_Who_among_the_Women_of_California).)

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a larger fraction of their income than do higher-income households and because energy products make up a bigger share of their spending.

A **carbon tax** directly raises substantial revenues. These could be used in part to fund “progressive” tax-shifting policies that would reduce the burden of higher energy costs on lower-income groups.

**Simplicity and Transparency**

A **cap-and-trade** system requires new institutions (e.g., a system to allocate permits, markets where firms can buy and sell permits, a means of monitoring emissions and trades). Auctioning permits rather than distributing them free could help promote simplicity and transparency.

A **carbon tax** can be levied and collected via existing institutions with experience in enforcing compliance. It is simpler and less expensive to administer and enforce than a cap-and-trade system. Its underlying premise—the price of energy should include the environmental costs associated with its production—is transparent and readily understood.

Produced by the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force © 2008 by the League of Women Voters of the United States

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**Enroll Early to Receive the February 2009 Digital National Voter**

Beat the enrollment deadline of January 5, 2009 (5pm ET). If you enroll before 1/5/2009, the first issue of the digital National Voter you will be eligible to receive is the February 2009 issue. If you are already enrolled, there is no need to enroll again. To enroll, (1) go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org); (2) when you get to your “My League/Welcome” page, click on “(Update your information)” at the bottom of the page; (3) Scroll to the bottom of the “Your Profile” page, click on the box “I wish to receive The National Voter electronically” and then click on “Submit Changes.” Please note that you will no longer receive a paper copy in the mail once you enroll.

**SAVE THE DATE: Sunshine Week 2009**

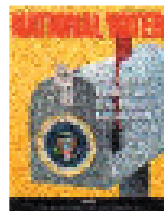
As the LWVEF continues its work on openness in government [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Openness\\_in\\_Government2&amp;p;Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=76&ContentID=8499](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Openness_in_Government2&amp;p;Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=76&ContentID=8499), we will once again co-sponsor a panel discussion on this important topic in Washington, DC, during Sunshine Week. Scheduled for March 20, this year’s event will include national policymakers and journalists. Entitled “Opening Doors: Finding the Keys to Open Government,” it will be webcast live, and Leagues are encouraged to hold local events around this discussion. Mark your calendars now and check future Leaders’ Updates for more information about this event as well as other ideas about how to call attention to this topic during Sunshine Week (March 15-21).

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

**January 19, 2009**



**Digital National Voter Now Available**



# The Informer

League of Women Voters of the Plattsburgh Area



January 2009

President  
Myra Decker 643-2742  
mystdek7@northnet.org

Stasia Arcarese 561-1745  
“Informer” Editor  
larry.arcarese@verizon.net

Madeleine Robinson  
Circulation 834-7516  
robinson7516@charter.net

## League of Women Voters First Friday Forum

**JANUARY 9, 2009**

12 noon

Butcher Block Restaurant

**Topic: “Tourism”**

**Speaker: Michele Powers**, Director of Visitors & Convention Bureau

**\$12.00** Soup and Salad Bar

Restaurant Policy - No Personal Checks

**RSVP by January 7th to Myra Decker 643-2742 or [mystdek7@northnet.org](mailto:mystdek7@northnet.org)**



## Pot-Luck Annual Meeting

**JANUARY 31, 2009**

11:00 AM

Plattsburgh Town Offices on Banker Rd.

**Topic: “A Practitioner’s View of Land Use Planning in the Plattsburgh Area: Is Sprawl Impacting the Area?”**

**Speaker: Phil Von Bargen**,\* Planning Department Head for the Town of Plattsburgh

**RSVP by January 27th to Myra Decker, 643-2742 or email [mystdek7@northnet.org](mailto:mystdek7@northnet.org).**

Please bring a dish to share.  
Guests are Welcome

\*See information about topic and speaker on p. 4

## December FFF Report

by Janet Forsman



Susan Matton

Susan Matton, VP for Economic Development for the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce, declared: “Our local economy is good . . . during this economic downturn.” She explained that her position was a response to the Plattsburgh Airbase closure, a challenge which has

eventually led to beneficial development.” She credits “a strong Canadian economy, diversity in the population, SUNY Plattsburgh, and five years’ growth in manufacturing” for this area’s economic potential.

Matton also reported that our sales tax revenues are up 10% and sees that increase as evidence of the area’s improved financial success. Additionally, she views our new airport and the increase in travel from Montreal as real strengths. Another factor she noted as positive is the weekend border traffic going north. She believes the enhanced drivers’ licenses and the Nexus program contribute to that increase, which has the potential to enhance our relationship with Quebec.

Matton sees, however, a need for more “cultural independence” here, especially in promoting our good theater, schools, and natural environment. She is also concerned that “New York taxes are not competitive” and stated that the Chamber of Commerce has “no direct influence on our economy or environmental regulations.” Matton also applauds the connection between Clinton Community College and the planned Aeronautical Institute. She noted, however, that such a relationship “would require new facilities and technical expertise to allow for training electrical engineers.”

Matton also regards the Olympic Redevelopment

Association and the Montreal-to-Albany highway as significant factors with potential for advancing our Canadian connections. She believes we also might significantly from Clarkson University’s program to strengthen our relationships with organizations in Montreal.



Barbara Landes, Carole Cao-Ba, Susan Matton, Myra Decker

## Women in History

### Annette Abbott Adams



She was born March 12, 1877, in Prattville, California and died in Sacramento in 1956.

After graduating from the State Normal School, Chico, California, in 1897, Adams taught school. After receiving a bachelor of letters degree at the university of California-Berkeley,

in 1904, then resumed her teaching career at Alturas High School, Alturas, California, where from 1907-1910 she served as principal.

In 1912 she earned a J.D. degree at the University of California-Berkeley, the only woman in her graduating class. Adams became active in Democratic politics and was president of the Woman’s State Democratic Club of California-in support of Woodrow Wilson.

In 1914 Adams was named federal prosecutor for the Norther District of California-the first woman to hold the post. In 1918 she became special U.S.

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promotes a shift to cleaner fuels and renewable energy.

### Emissions Certainty

The strength of the **cap-and-trade** approach is that it sets firm limits on emissions. The cap is set at a level designed to achieve a desired environmental outcome (e.g., a reduction of CO2 emissions to 80 percent of 1990 levels by 2050).

A **carbon tax** allows the quantity of emissions to fluctuate as the demand for energy rises or falls. Allowing emissions to vary from year to year gives firms the flexibility to abate less and pay more in taxes when abatement costs are unusually high (and vice-versa when abatement costs are low). In order to achieve climatic goals, the tax rate can be adjusted over time to attain greater emissions reductions.

### Price Predictability

The advantage of a **carbon tax** is that it fixes the price of carbon emissions. It creates a permanent incentive to reduce emissions, thereby encouraging investment in alternative fuels and energy-efficient technologies that have high up-front costs.

Under a **cap-and-trade** system, the price of emissions permits may vary considerably from year to year. An especially cold winter, for example, could increase the demand for energy and cause a spike in the price of permits. This volatility could weaken incentives to invest in cleaner technologies.

For illustrative purposes, this paper focuses on a cap-and-trade system for carbon dioxide (CO2).

To address volatility, most cap-and-trade proposals include cost-control mechanisms.

\* **Safety valve**—establishes a ceiling on the price of permits. If the price reaches this level, the government can sell additional permits at this price to the capped entities.

\* **Circuit breaker**—freezes a gradually declining emissions cap if the permit price rises above a pre-

determined level.

\* **Banking**—allows companies to save unused allowances for future years.

\* **Borrowing**—allows companies to borrow permits from future years and pay them back, with interest, later.

\* **Offsets**—allow companies to cover some of their emissions by purchasing credits created by carbon mitigation projects (e.g., tree planting) from sources outside the cap-and-trade system.

These mechanisms (with the exception of banking) could delay emissions reductions and undermine the integrity of the cap.

### Environmental Effectiveness

The impact of a **cap-and-trade** system depends on a number of factors. How stringent is the emissions target? How will baseline emissions be measured and a corresponding and appropriate number of emissions permits be determined and distributed? Will the cap be applied economy-wide or only to certain sectors? Does it include cost-control measures that are likely to break the emissions cap?

The impact of a **carbon tax** depends in large part on whether the tax rate is set high enough to create real market incentives to develop and adopt climate-friendly technologies. Although a carbon tax does not establish a firm limit on emissions, it applies economy-wide and provides a constant incentive for companies to make carbon-saving investments. The tax rate can be increased over time to provide stronger incentives to reduce emissions.

### Equity

Under many **cap-and-trade** proposals, a substantial portion of the emissions permits are to be distributed free to the capped entities. Research indicates that only a modest portion of the permit value is needed to offset the costs of the cap, but the full amount is passed along in increased prices to consumers. This would disproportionately affect lower-income households because they tend to spend

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the new administration to act quickly to pass legislation containing this provision: A basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents as a matter of public policy. It is critical that health care reform include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care.

**LWVUS National Popular Vote Compact Study Pro and Con Articles Available**

Go to: [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=National\\_Popular\\_Vote\\_Compact&CONTENTID=12504&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=National_Popular_Vote_Compact&CONTENTID=12504&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm) for the National Popular Vote Compact Study Committee **Pro article** and here [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=National\\_Popular\\_Vote\\_Compact&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=12505](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=National_Popular_Vote_Compact&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=12505) for the **Con article**. The NPV Compact Background article is already posted on the LWVUS Web site, as is the text of the Compact at [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=National\\_Popular\\_Vote\\_Compact&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPage-Display.cfm&TPLID=157&ContentID=12169](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=National_Popular_Vote_Compact&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPage-Display.cfm&TPLID=157&ContentID=12169)

**Online Store: 'Tis the Season Holiday Sale!**

For the month of December, the League's Online Store is selling select LWV logo favorites at these discounted prices: the LWV red and blue lanyards \$2.00 (regular price \$3.25), LWV flashlights \$3.00 (regular price \$4.50) and LWV baseball cap \$8.00 (regular price \$10.50). Make your loved ones happy this season with a gift that shows pride in the League!



**Curbing Greenhouse Gas Emissions — Two Approaches**

By Eleanor Revelle (LWVIL and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Member)

Facing the growing evidence that burning fossil fuels is contributing significantly to global climate change, policymakers are evaluating strategies for reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. They have two general approaches to consider.

**Cap-and-Trade**

With a cap-and-trade system, policymakers set a limit on the quantity of a pollutant (e.g., CO2) that can be emitted in a given period. The total emissions allowed under this cap are divided into permits representing the right to emit a given amount (e.g., one ton of CO2). The permits are then allocated to the sources covered by the program (e.g., power plants). At the end of the compliance period, each source must report all emissions and surrender an equivalent number of permits.

Since the number of permits is limited, they have financial value. Companies able to reduce their emissions at low cost can sell the permits they don't need to companies for whom the cost of reducing emissions is high. Each company has the flexibility to choose how to meet its emissions target, but market incentives encourage them to develop new, cleaner technologies. Over time, the cap is lowered to achieve more aggressive emissions-reduction goals.

**Carbon Tax**

A carbon tax is imposed on fossil fuel suppliers at a rate that reflects the amount of carbon that will be emitted when the fuel is combusted. The tax is included in the price of the coal, oil, and natural gas supplied to wholesale users and ultimately is passed on to consumers in the price of electricity, gasoline and other energy-intensive products. By raising the price of carbon-based energy, the tax creates incentives to reduce energy use, stimulates demand for more energy-efficient products, and

**Background on Jan. Potluck Speaker**

**A Practitioners View of Land Use Planning in the Plattsburgh Area: Is Sprawl Impacting the Area?**

- What is sprawl?
- What is "Smart Growth"?
- How significant are the pressures and impacts of development in the Plattsburgh area?
- Is development out of control in the Plattsburgh region?
- What is Comprehensive Planning?

The Town of Plattsburgh adopted their first Master Plan in 1964. In 1966, Subdivision Regulations were approved. Three years later in 1969, the first Zoning Ordinance was adopted. The Town of Plattsburgh has been a leader among Townships north of Queensbury in regulating land use. The Town of Plattsburgh Town Board recently created a committee of fifteen persons to update the Town Comprehensive Plan. This will be the fourth Comprehensive Plan process in the township.

Drawing from his experience with Land Use Planning in the Town of Plattsburgh, Mr. Phil Von Bargen will lead a presentation and discussion on the above topics. He will also explain how the Comprehensive Plan Committee in the Town of Plattsburgh will seek public involvement during the updating of the Plan. Phil will also incorporate use of the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS) into his discussion.

Currently Phil is the Planning Department Head for the Town of Plattsburgh. He has been employed by the Town for fifteen years, the last eight as Planning Department Head. Prior to his working for the Town, Phil was a civilian employee for 7 years at Plattsburgh Air Force Base and served six of those years as the Remedial Project Manager for the Environmental Restoration Program. He graduated from Plattsburgh State University in 1980 with a degree in Environmental Science. He lives in Morrisonville with his wife, Mary, and Chocolate Lab, Nessmuk. 4



**LWV Approved for OAS Registry of Civil Society Organizations**

On November 20, 2008, the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) approved the registration of the League of Women Voters as an active member of its civil society network. The participation of civil society organizations at the OAS is fundamental to the development of the American Hemisphere. Civil society inputs aid in the design of policies consistent with the needs of communities in the member states. This registration will enable the League to participate in OAS activities and contribute ideas to strengthen the mechanisms of cooperation among OAS member states.

**Youth Engagement Activity: "Building Democracy 2.0"**

Following the historical 2008 election season, the LWVUS continues to work to engage young voters. The LWVUS will be joining organizations such as Mobilize.org, Declare Yourself, the National Conference on Citizenship and others at the "Constitutional Convention: Building Democracy 2.0." This event encourages young people (ages 16 - 30) to develop solutions to various challenges in their community. The League is proud to have been asked to participate in this event as an "expert advisor" and help select winners. Winning proposals will receive funding for their vision. To learn more about this event, go to: <http://www.democracyupgrade.com/Participants.html> We encourage all League members to share this opportunity with young leaders in your community.

**Public Input on Health Care Reform**

Tom Daschle, Health and Human Services Secretary-Designee, has posted a request for public input on health care reform on the Obama-Biden Transition Web site, [www.Change.gov](http://www.Change.gov). Go to: <http://change.gov/page/s/healthcare> for the posting. As the Obama-Biden team works to put together a health care proposal, it is important for citizens to let their views be heard. League members are encouraged to take this opportunity to participate and urge

## Water—Let's Use This Precious Resource Wisely!

By Eleanor Revelle (LWVIL and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Member)

Water is an increasingly scarce resource. Many parts of the United States already face serious water shortages and even drought. Population growth and the changing climate are putting additional stresses on water supplies. Even in areas where water seems to be abundant, careful management of this precious resource is essential if we are to ensure a reliable supply for future generations.

Moreover, using water efficiently also saves energy. For most municipalities, the biggest use of electricity is associated with treating and distributing drinking water and then collecting, treating, and disposing of it after it has been used.

Water conservation is clearly an important component of sustainability. How can we, as individual consumers, help?

### Saving Water Indoors

Indoor water usage in a typical single family home in the United States is about 70 gallons per person per day. But fixing leaks, installing water-efficient plumbing fixtures, and changing some everyday habits can reduce water usage significantly to around 45 gallons/person/day.

### Fix those Leaks

\* Leaks account for about 13 percent of the water used in a typical home. A slowly dripping faucet or a toilet that keeps “running” can waste thousands of gallons of water a year. To check for leaks, read the water meter before and after a two-hour period in which no water is being used. After the test period, if the meter has a higher reading, there is probably a leak.

Buy Water-Saving Fixtures, Appliances

\* Toilets are typically the greatest water user in the house, accounting for more than one-quarter of the total used in a home each day. Replacing an

older 3.5-gallons-per-flush (gpf) toilet with a 1.6-gpf, low-flush model will save at least 10 gallons of water/per person/day. New lower-flow dual-flush toilets will cut usage even further. By reducing water bills, newer toilets pay for themselves in just a few years.

\* Replacing older showerheads with low-flow fixtures and installing low-flow aerators in existing faucets are both low-cost ways to save water. And by cutting the demand for hot water, this step will result in energy savings as well.

\* Water-efficient dishwashers and clothes washers also help save water—and energy.

### Turn Off the Tap

\* A few small changes in everyday habits can result in significant water savings. Turn off the tap while brushing teeth and save well over 1000 gallons/person/year. Take a five-minute shower (12.5 gallons of water with a new showerhead) instead of a bath and save 20-30 gallons each time.

### Conserving Water Outside

In urbanized areas, roads, rooftops and parking lots cover much of the landscape and prevent rainwater from soaking into the ground and replenishing groundwater. Rainwater runoff flows instead into the storm sewer system, picking up pesticides, fertilizers, oil and other pollutants as it makes its way to local rivers, lakes and bays.

An additional problem confronts older municipalities with combined sewer systems. In these systems, stormwater and sanitary wastes are collected in the same pipe and then treated together before being discharged. During periods of heavy rain fall or snowmelt, the volume of water can exceed the capacity of the system, and the excess wastewater is discharged directly into nearby waterways.

### Green Infrastructure

A new approach to stormwater management uses natural systems to absorb and filter rainwater and make use of it where it falls. It treats rainwater as

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an asset rather than a waste product.

\* Using permeable paving for driveways and parking areas allows rainwater to seep into the ground, thus recharging groundwater and reducing stormwater runoff.

\* Rainwater can be “harvested”—collected as it runs off the roof and stored in rain barrels or a cistern for future landscape irrigation. Benefits include lower water bills, less waste of precious drinking water, reduced demand on the municipal water system and increased groundwater recharge.

\* Replacing lawn areas with natural landscaping will save water and energy as well as benefit the natural environment. Lawn maintenance is water intensive—some 30 percent of our water is used to irrigate lawns—and lawnmowers cause five percent of the nation’s air pollution. Native plants, on the other hand, help reduce runoff and minimize the need for watering. They do not need fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides. And they provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects.

\* *The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has launched a new program, WaterSense ([www.epa.gov/watersense/](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/)), to help consumers identify products and programs that meet tough water-efficiency and performance criteria. High-efficiency toilets are the first product to display the new WaterSense label, signaling that the fixture has been independently certified by a third party to confirm that it meets the EPA criteria.*

### Online Resources for Additional Information

The California Urban Water Conservation Council’s H2OUSE tour ([www.h2ouse.org/index.cfm](http://www.h2ouse.org/index.cfm)) provides detailed advice to help consumers save water at home, both indoors and outside.

The EPA’s green infrastructure Web site ([cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program\\_id=298](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=298)) discusses a variety of water management techniques, including porous pavement, rain gardens, green roofs, rain barrels and cisterns, and much more.

The Green Infrastructure Project of the Chicago-based Center for Neighborhood Technology promotes green solutions to stormwater management. Its Green Values Stormwater Toolbox ([greenvalues.cnt.org/](http://greenvalues.cnt.org/)) includes a stormwater calculator to help users assess the impact of various green interventions for their property.

Water saving tips, a home water scorecard and a variety of other resources can be found at Water: Use It Wisely ([www.wateruseitwisely.com/index.shtml](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/index.shtml)). Produced by the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force

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### Looking Ahead to 2009

The League looks forward to working with the incoming 111th Congress and the Obama Administration on key issues including global climate change, health care, government reform and transparency. Americans believe it’s time to build a better, stronger America—and the League has the legislative track record and grassroots strength to get it done. Read our [Open Letter to the Next President](http://lists.lwv.org/t/878183/3605983/592/0/) <http://lists.lwv.org/t/878183/3605983/592/0/>, as well as our [reform agenda](http://lists.lwv.org/t/878183/3605983/593/0/) <http://lists.lwv.org/t/878183/3605983/593/0/>, and keep an eye out for more details in the coming weeks. To get your friends and family involved in shaping these key issues, encourage them to sign up for the League’s Grassroots Lobby Corps [http://lists.lwv.org/t/878183/3605983/594/0](http://lists.lwv.org/t/878183/3605983/594/0/).

### Hang in There

