

Living & Working for a Sustainable Future

Module: Water, Me & My Work

Learner Study Guide

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Analyze the importance of action relating to responsible use, management and protection of water.

Learning Activities

To complete this unit, students should:

- ✓ Complete the activities outlined in step 1: Looking Back
- ✓ Complete the activities outlined in step 2: Looking Within
- ✓ Complete the activities outlined in step 3: Looking Forward
- ✓ Submit the required assessment components to your facilitator



Looking Back: INFORMATION & EXPERIENCE

NSCC's mission, vision and strategic plan are fundamentally aligned with the principles of sustainability. The College is committed to taking a leadership role in the journey toward sustainability for the benefit of all Nova Scotians. NSCC programs help learners to be able to apply sustainable practices that support economic, social, cultural and environmental stewardship.

This module relates to the use, management and protection of water. Water covers 70% of the earth's surface but very little of it can actually be consumed by humans. Clean drinking water is critical to human survival and, as many of the earth's substances are soluble in water, it is rare to find it in its pure form. Think about what you know about water already and investigate the water cycle.

Think About YOUR Interactions with Water

Consider where and how you interact with water in your daily life and work.

Take Action to learn more about your own consumption of water by completing a one day (24 hour) water log – an audit of your personal water interactions.

To do this, track your interactions with water for the entire day. You will need to make estimates of your personal use based on the amount of water you consume, the amount of water you flush, the amount of water you use for bathing and personal hygiene, the list goes on. You will also need to consult resources to be able to estimate water use based on things such as flow rate of the shower, washing machine size, toilet type, etc.

It can be easy for Canadians to take clean water for granted; we turn on a tap and out it comes -- clear and safe to drink! As part of the debriefing and reflection on the water log activity, take the time to play an online game, using the link below. The Province of New Brunswick has created a fun online game to help people think about places to conserve water in their homes.

<http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0371/0012/0006-e.asp>

Consult a Key Informant Resource

There are all kinds of amazing resources relating to water. Take the time to look over the UNESCO document, "**Water in a changing world: the United Nations world water development report 3**" (2009). This is a huge document (over 400 pages) with considerable food for thought including a case studies volume at the end. For the purposes of this one single course module you are certainly not expected to read the entire document, although it is available through this link.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001819/181993e.pdf>

Find the graphic / illustration of the "**Water Box**" included in this document. Hint: the graphic is included with the heading: DECISION-MAKING AFFECTING WATER. Consider the story this picture is trying to tell. You can refer to this in your submitted reflection portfolio learning component for this module.



Looking Within: REFLECT & SHARE

So far you have been doing a lot of investigative work. This is important.

Take the time to REFLECT on what you have read, what you have seen and the experience of completing your personal water audit

Take Action by recording your reflection in some form.

Learning takes on deeper meaning when it is shared. Take the time to SHARE your experiences and your reflections with someone else. How were your experiences and responses similar? How were they different?

Take advantage of opportunities to engage in further dialogue with your co-learners and your facilitator about what you have been reading and discovering in the course to date.

FIND another reading / resource and SHARE

There are all kinds of amazing resources relating to the use, management and protection of water.

For example, take a look at Environment Canada's Comprehensive Approach to Clean Water. Search to see if you can find the article using a search engine.

If you are not able to find it, here is the address where we were able to find it:


<http://www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water/default.asp?lang=En&n=B1128A3D-1>

Another interesting non-governmental article is "Water as a Resource" from the Encyclopedia of Food & Culture. Ed. Solomon H. Katz. Vol. 3. Gale Cengage, 2003. eNotes.com. 2006. 7 Dec, 2009

<http://www.enotes.com/food-encyclopedia/water-resource>

Take action to research and find another reading or resource relating to this module that you really like - a reading that connects with YOU.

Compile the complete reference information for the reading / resource. Write a single paragraph explanation of why you have selected the reading / resource and how it connects with you. To receive credit for this module, you will be required to submit your recommended related reading / resource component to your facilitator.

	Looking Forward: APPLICATION & ACTION
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Take action to find out more about where YOUR water comes from and where it goes. Find out what you can about the responsible use, management and protection of your water source. Think about possible action avenues relating to water.

Think about general activities and action avenues.

Think about personal activities and action avenues. Consider the action steps you envision taking (or are already taking) relating to the use, management and protection of water.

- **In addition to what you submit to your facilitator, you are also encouraged to participate in formal and informal dialogue opportunities with co-learners. Discuss the following question: How did this module impact YOU?**

Assessment



In order to receive credit for this module, you are required to submit to your facilitator your recommended related reading / resource, your completed water log artifact as well as a single page learning reflection. This reflection must include the components outlined below and fit on one single letter size page with a minimum 10 point type font.

- **Module Name:**
- **Learner Name:**
- **How did this module INFORM?** Based on your module readings, reflections and collaboration with others, provide a one paragraph summary of how the content from this module has informed you relating to the importance of sustainability action. What is the single most important thing you learned from this module?
- **How did this module INFLUENCE?** Knowledge is one thing, but learning takes on deeper meaning when it is reflected upon and shared. Throughout this module you have been encouraged to discuss, reflect, share and collaborate with other learners in your journey through the content and activities. Provide one paragraph of reflection evidence indicating how others helped to evolve your attitudes and /or how you have helped to change the attitudes of others.
- **How did this module INSPIRE?** Knowledge and attitudes are important but actions and behaviours are where change often most noticeably happens. Really think about the things you can do (and are already doing). Sum up the personal action steps you are currently completing and/or plan on taking based on this module.
- **Your learning is documented in many forms. Your submitted reflection pieces and the different pieces of evidence from the learning activities you completed are all important artifacts of your learning – they are representations of what and how you have learned.**
- **Your lifelong learning and action to help create a more sustainable future continues on from here...**