

Unit 11: Your Water Footprint

Cotton is everywhere: in your furniture, in your food, in your wallet, in your closet.

Cotton has a major impact on the planet. Take your favorite cotton T-shirt. It takes 2,700 liters of water to make one T-shirt, enough for one person to drink for 900 days. It also takes a lot of energy to grow, manufacture, transport. Mostly, it needs energy to care for it.

One load of drying uses 5 times more energy than washing. One load of washing uses 40 gallons of water. Now think how often you wash & dry your T-shirt.

Don't we have plenty of resources?

Plenty of water? Yes, but 97 percent is salty. Nearly 2 percent is locked in snow or ice. That leaves less than 1 percent that we can access and 70 percent of that grows our crops.

Cotton is a very thirsty crop. Now, think how many T-shirts are in your closet. Now, think how many T-shirts are in your city. Now, think how many T-shirts are in your country. Now, think how many T-shirts are on the planet.

How many T-shirts do you need? How often do you need to wash and dry them?

There is a solution. We can use less water & less energy. Skip the drying and ironing and save one-third of your T-shirt's carbon footprint.

Choices make a difference. Make each choice count.