Personal Sustainability Project Plan

Sustainable Water Usage Project
Chidera Osere-Osowo Bisong #7772664 20th January, 2016 GEOG 3850

Project Description

My personal sustainability project will focus on an exercise carried out by me to reduce my rate of water consumption. Water consumption defined as any form of water usage either in the form of assimilation (drinking water) or for other domestic purposes like shower, toilet flushing, tooth brushing, kitchen, or even gardening. So I'm tackling this project from an holistic level involving all forms of water consumed by me. The project will run for the space of approximately three months, beginning officially on the 20th of January, 2016 and would run up to the last day of class on the 6th of April, 2016. At the end of the project a review assessment would be carried out to see the outcome of the project; evaluating the efficiency and significance of the project and also seeing how effective it would be assuming it is carried out by a much larger number of individuals and families.

Methodology

In order to keep accurate count of my new water consumption rate for the sake of this project, I would carry out a water audit where I shall create a simple audit tool using Microsoft Excel program. This audit will run through out the course of the time frame allocated for the project. The basic parameters that would be used as a measure of how sustainable the practice is would majorly be time of usage and quantity of water used.

Time of usage is in two folds; duration and frequency. Duration implies a huge cut down in the amount of time used to do a particular activity that involves water consumption, therefore if I formerly took a 20 minutes' shower, I would have to cut down to 10 minutes' shower time. And frequency implying how often I embark on a particular activity that involves water consumption. So if I formerly took a shower twice everyday, I would now take a shower only once a day.

The 'quantity of water used' parameter is actually dependent on the 'time' variable. It is a measure of how much water I use to perform a particular activity. So if I formerly used 20 litres of water to take one shower which lasts for 20 minutes, now that I take 10 minutes' shower, I should use approximately 10 litres of water depending on the calculation. And so on and so forth for other activities that would be performed. Note that in the audit these activities would not be estimated but would be accurately calculated and recorded.

Project Implication

I strongly believe sustainability involves the art of trade off, something must be given up in order to sustain natural capital. For individuals I believe it has more to do with giving up of convenience and ostentatious life styles. This project would impact me in various ways that would involve me giving up a number of things. I would have to cut down certain habits, my shower time and also the frequency of my showers daily, same thing goes to frequency of tooth cleaning. I would also have to have a planed bowel movement schedule in order to regulate amount of time I flush the toilet; this also would affect my diet plan. I have presently retrofitted my shower head by buying one with a lower pressure pump to help conserve water discharge. And basically my whole life style would have to change over the course of this exercise. Lastly, reducing water use in is actually a win-win situation. Using less water means lower utility costs.