

Climate change and the water beneath our feet

the HISTORY of groundwater

68% of freshwater is found in ice and glaciers
30% of freshwater is groundwater
2% is surface water

With climate change comes erratic weather patterns, including more floods and more droughts. What does this mean for our groundwater?

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 2 billion people on this planet rely solely on groundwater. It provides drinking water to approximately 50% of the global population.



Groundwater (GW) held in soil or in-between rocks. "Aquifers" are porous rock and sediment that hold the water underground. It makes up the largest freshwater source on Earth.

Some groundwater we use today was underground when dinosaurs roamed the Earth



- 1) over extraction
- 2) saltwater intrusion in coastal areas
- 3) contamination by mines, hospitals, industry, animals and open toilets

Groundwater is our only Plan B when surface water becomes insufficient.

What can I do?

- * plant native - not invasive
- * reduce chemical waste - use natural cleaners
- * harvest and use rainwater
- * save water and report leaks
- * save electricity - 15% of global freshwater is used for energy production
- * educate - learn - create awareness

Warmer water allow bacteria to thrive and impact human- and animal health. Groundwater and many freshwater sources need disinfection before consumption.

