



Blackrock Green Home 'Water Wise'



WEEK 3 – VIRTUAL WATER / WATER FOOTPRINT

Virtual Water / Water Footprint - what is it?

An understanding of 'Virtual Water / Water Footprint' enables us to appreciate more than ever before what a scarce global resource water really is and how important water is in our everyday living.

Virtual Water is the water 'embedded' in commodities. Producing goods and services requires water. The water used to produce agricultural or industrial products is called the Virtual Water or Water Footprint of the product.

The global volume of Virtual Water flows related to the international trade in commodities is 1,600 km³ per year. About 80% of these virtual water flows relate to the trade in agricultural products, while the remainder is related to industrial product trade.



The production of 1 kg of **maize** requires 900 litres of water
The production of 1 kg of **wheat** requires 1,350 litres of water
The production of 1 kg of **rice** requires 3,000 litres of water
The production of 1 kg of **beef** requires 16,000 litres of water



Compare the water we use with Virtual Water embedded in food. For example one quarter pound beef burger in a bun is equal to 30 baths, i.e. 2,400 litres of water!

Water usage in the context of both direct and indirect (virtual) water used to produce all the goods and services consumed by an individual, a community or even a country, determines our Water Footprint. See www.waterfootprint.org for more information on this.

Did you know: 140 litres of water are needed to produce 1 cup of coffee, and 35 litres are needed for cup of tea, while the production of 1 litre of milk requires 1,000 litres of water.

