Join us each Monday as the Clean Water Team shares information and resources on water quality monitoring. This Monday we will look at the EarthEcho Water Challenge.

EarthEcho Water Challenge is an event that many watershed organizations use for testing water quality, outreach, environmental literacy, STEM, and place-based education. The Challenge begins about a month from now. If you have never heard about the Challenge there is no need to panic. Many California watershed groups participate in the Challenge around October 18th, the Clean Water Act's anniversary. Actual participation runs through the end of the year, just be sure to submit your water quality data before December 31.



<u>The EarthEcho Water</u> Challenge (formerly <u>World Water Monitoring Challenge</u>) is an international program that runs annually from March 22 (<u>World Water Day</u>) through December and equips anyone at any age to protect the water resources we depend on every day. The EarthEcho Water Challenge builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local waterbodies.

The Water Challenge builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local waterbodies:

- Test It all starts by understanding the state of water quality in your community. You
 can do just that with a simple test kit that may be <u>purchased here</u>.
 - <u>Event Resources</u> (Test Kit Instructions, Planning Tools, Promotion Tools, Video Tutorials)
 - Apply for a sponsored kit donation.
- Share Enter your data online to our international database and share your story and photos with us on social media using hashtag #MonitorWater and @EarthEcho. By doing so, you join a network of citizens from more than 140 countries and become part of the solution for clean water and healthy waterways worldwide.

- o Add your data
- o <u>Tell us your Story</u>
- o Browse past monitoring year reports and data sets
- o Data Browser
- Protect Armed with your test results, you can use the information and resources available on this site to take action and protect the vital water resources in your community.
- Water Challenge Ambassadors <u>Ambassadors</u> collaborate with and learn from a
 network of young people passionate about protecting local waterways and lead events
 to educate their communities about the importance of waterway conservation.

Protecting the quality of water in our local watersheds is a critical part of ensuring the overall health of the environment and our communities. Participating in the EarthEcho Water Challenge is a great way to be part of the solution to water issues worldwide.

Here's what you'll test for...

Dissolved Oxygen (DO)

Measures how many molecules of oxygen are in the water. Since oxygen is important to fish and other aquatic life, higher DO readings support more diverse species and a healthier ecosystem. Low levels of DO can weaken or kill fish and other aquatic life.

pH (Acidity)

Measures how acidic or basic a liquid is. pH is measured on a scale from 0-14, where 0 is most acidic, 14 is most basic, and 7 is neutral. A pH between 6.5 and 8.5 is favorable for supporting life in natural waters.

Turbidity (Clarity)

Measures the water's clarity. Debris, sand, silt, and other materials can make the water less clear (more turbid). Turbidity can impact the aquatic ecosystem by affecting photosynthesis, respiration, and reproduction of aquatic life.

Temperature

Measures the warmth or coldness of the water. This indicator is important because it affects dissolved oxygen, photosynthesis, and the food supply. Waters that are too hot or too cold can have severe effects on fish and other aquatic life.

Clean Water Team Resources

- Challenge Videos
- Vital Signs: The Basic 5 Water Quality Parameters (Fact Sheets & Information Papers)
- Newsletters with Student Resources

- <u>The Clean Water Team Glossary:</u> A Vocabulary for Water Quality Monitors and Watershed Stewards
- Example of a CWT supported event with the San Diego Citizen Watershed Monitoring Consortium
 - o Students Unite for World Water Monitoring Day
 - o Students from San Diego & Tijuana Celebrate World Water Monitoring Day

<u>EarthEcho International</u> envisions a world where every individual, from all backgrounds and experiences, has the opportunity and tools to create a healthy and thriving environment. To that end, our mission is to build a global youth movement to protect and restore our ocean planet.

EarthEcho collaborates with youth around the world to provide knowledge and develop tools that drive meaningful environmental action to protect and restore our ocean planet. Reaching more than 2 million people in 146 countries, we support the next generation to become environmental leaders who will transform the future.

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