

Water is one of the most essential resources on Earth, playing a critical role in sustaining life, supporting agriculture, and maintaining healthy ecosystems. Every living organism depends on water to survive, making it one of the most valuable natural resources we have. Without it, humans, animals, and plants would not be able to function or exist.

For example, having water for farmers to be able to use to irrigate their crops is a huge necessity when we are having a hot summer. If farmers didn't have ways to irrigate their fields with water, most of the years rain wouldn't be enough for them to grow a successful yield of crops. Farmers also need a large amount of water for their animals depending on how many they have. For example, dairy cow operations around southeast North Dakota use around 500,000 gallons a day to keep everything sanitary and keep the cows hydrated.

Some people might not realize how much water they use on a daily basis and how much of a necessity it is for everyday activities. You obviously have to drink water to keep your body healthy, but you use it in many other ways. Just think about how many times you need to wash a pile of dirty clothes in a family of four household in just one week. Each one of those washes use anywhere from seven to fifteen gallons each. Another example of an important use of water in daily life activities is taking a shower. Every time you take a shower you will use approximately two and a half gallons per minute of your shower. If you shower for an average of fifteen minutes with seven showers a week you would use around two hundred and sixty gallons.

With all this information now let's talk about the importance of Southeast Water Users. My father Paul Gilbert has worked for the company for over twenty years and I've always been interested in his work so here is some things I've picked up over the years. Southeast Water Users supports industry and agriculture in areas that normally wouldn't be able to have that high quality water. It also supplies safe drinking water to those who wouldn't have had it. The Rural

Water workers are required to be certified operators to ensure that someone knowledgeable is in charge and meets the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency. Southeast Water serves thirty-eight towns and three colonies with their water while having almost four thousand members being supplied with water. Southeast Water sold over five hundred million, seven hundred and eight thousand gallons of water in the last year.