

## Impervious Surface Challenge: Aware of our daily use of hard surfaces

While fighting the increase in impervious surfaces takes a global effort, but there are many ways to engage on a personal level. Every single day, we engage with impervious surfaces and the water sources at risk because of the dangerous side effects of the increase of runoff due to hard surfaces.

This week's challenge involves awareness, knowing that most of us don't think about the impact of the roads we drive on or the schools we send our children to. The impact of constant development, adding concrete and asphalt to the earth's surface, is heating up the city temperature and affecting water quality. To begin the process of understanding the impacts of development, we must start by observing our interactions with the surfaces we use on a daily basis.

This week consists of two challenges that increase awareness of the impervious surfaces in our daily lives.

1. Take a 10 minute walk, either around the neighborhood, a park, or downtown. Spend those 10 minutes noticing when you are walking on an impervious surface (a man-made surface like concrete, asphalt, or a hard surface like stone or brick). Observe the surfaces you see around you. Are most of them hard surfaces? Or would they absorb water? Where would the water flow if it rained really hard?

When you get home, think about the amount of impervious surfaces you saw. Start to be aware of the times you are on natural surfaces.

2. Continue to be aware of the surfaces around the city every day. But, take action. Find one way to increase the greenspace in the city. Plant a new plant in a pot outside, either on a front walk or a balcony. Donate money to an organization planting trees in the city. Support city initiatives to increase green space in the city. Do one thing this week to increase the percent of greenspace in the city, whether that is in your yard or on a larger scale.