



The Water Guardian Manual

Vision

“To create a world of water secured communities.”

Water is the most basic and important necessity for any life to survive and sustain, even more so in the case of humans. Humans can't even survive 3 days without water. With the global population steadily increasing and available fresh water reducing, the stress created due to shortage is clearly visible in all parts of the globe. Even developed countries have not been able to escape this. In this situation, it becomes absolutely necessary that every individual is aware of his obligations towards water and work towards conserving it.

Mission

“To enable communities to be self sufficient and sustainable in managing their water resources by identifying their present and future water issue and solve the same.”

Water Guardians International (WGI) is a volunteer organization. At WGI we envision a world where every community is free of water worries and has a sustained water security, a world where every individual has access to sufficient water, a world where every individual respects water and uses it in the most sustainable way.

Values

The values of the Water Guardian International (WGI) represent the direction and the guiding principals for a Water Guardian. They define the actions of Water Guardians and drive them to a greater good in the society.

Respect for water

The respect for water, as the basis of all human life and the focus of the WGI, is the core value of a water guardian. Water must be considered and used as a precious resource, and this understanding must drive the WGI.

Respect for community service/fellowship

The role of the community and the service of fellow Water Guardians can guide WGI to achieve its vision. Fellowship towards a cause transcends all boundaries of caste, colour, religion or race.

Partnership

We believe that WGI must work with all partners- government, technical experts, community, and other partner organizations- with an objective way of thinking focused towards adding value to the society. It is important to understand the views and working of our partners to stay away from finger pointing and blame games.

Individual's values

In the WGI, clubs are formed by committed individuals and the values of these individuals shape the club. We believe that for the club, and from there on the WGI, to be effective, members must work with sincerity, honesty and integrity. The WGI members must also be ethical in their dealings.

Leadership development

Water Guardian's are leaders in their field of endeavor. Through work at the club level, we must identify and develop future leaders that can take the water movement to the district and the international level.

The Water Prayer

Dear God

You gave us a world
So beautiful and complete;
And made us in your image
With faith that we would manage

You came to live in us
To make life flow in us;
To fill our lives with love and laughter
In your 'Avataar' – that we call Water'

So - Teach us, o lord
To love cherish and respect;
The shower of your love,
The celestial flow that binds us

Open our eyes to the magic of Water
This colourless, odourless, formless matter
That gives earth its brilliant colour
And finds place in every corner.

We are all gathered today
To thank you for being in us
Guide us so we can show our brethren
You – God – in every drop.

Water Guardian Clubs

Water Guardian clubs are the building blocks for Water Guardians International (WGI). As a community leader, you can become a WGI member by joining any of the WG Clubs.

The club is where most of the water conscious meaningful work is carried out. Clubs can be engaged not only in their communities, but also internationally through activities, meetings and interactions on social networking sites. What Water Guardian gets out of Water Guardian Forum depends largely on what they put into it.

Who is a Water Guardian

- Everyone who realises the need to conserve water, respect water and has made any progress towards these goals is a Water Guardian in himself.
- Everyone who believes that he / she can lead the way to bring about a mass change in the society.

How to become a Water Guardian Club Member

You can become a WG Club member through any of the routes below:

- 1) You can register yourself as a member on our web portal. Depending on your location, an existing WG Club member will revert back to you to welcome you to their WG Club*.

- 2) You may be nominated by an existing WG Club member or by FORCE. The WG Club will help complete your registration details

**In case of non-nominated members, the Water Guardian Club retains the right to accept / reject any membership request.*

** Each club decides its own annual membership charges*

Your role as a Water Guardian

As a WG Club member, you'll get a chance to involve yourself in serving to solve the water problems of your locality in any way you like.

Involvement is the key to getting the most out of your membership. Volunteer to serve on a committee that meets your interests, take on a special responsibility that suits your personality, or to join a service project team. These activities will also help you get to know your fellow club members better and build a network of like-minded people. To build and keep clubs strong, every member must also share the responsibility of bringing new people to the club.

Meetings

Water Guardian clubs must meet at least once a month. The club can set its objectives, projects and activities for the year and for each month. You may want to organize:

- *Awareness programs for your locality*
- *Events that seed water consciousness in Children, for example:*
 - *Drawing/painting competition*
 - *Poem recital, songs & plays on water*
 - *Slogan writing, games & Quiz competitions*
- *Discussion/debate on local water issues*
- *Photo Exhibitions*

- *Water Treks –along rivers / glaciers to understand their ecology*
- *...Come up with your unique awareness events for your community!!*

Start a Project

Water Guardians can help identify projects that help save water. By taking time to learn about local and international issues, your club may discover new opportunities for effective service projects.

In this section, you'll find resources to help your club pick a project that's best suited to its resources and interests. Some ideas that we can suggest:

- *Rainwater Harvesting*
- *Water Wise saving – plumbing solutions for Water Saving in Households*
- *Water wise Greening – Using Waste Water for greening*
- *Water Education – Sponsor a poor child's vocational education that helps him get livelihood from Water and Sanitation solutions*
- *Water in each household – through bore wells / pipelines and canals*
- *Safe drinking water*
- *Hygiene and sanitation solutions for rural and poor areas*
- *River and catchment protection*
- *.....Give life to your own idea – your own water project.*

Collaborate

Collaborations can build new relationships and connections, allow participants to learn something new, and enhance the scope and effectiveness of service projects.

Water Guardian clubs and districts can often strengthen their service projects by collaborating with individuals, organizations, and sponsored groups that are based in the community being served or have

expertise in a particular area of service. Working with other groups can help even small projects achieve a greater impact

- Support the fund for Water Guardian support -Celebrate As You Donate - through both program participation and financial contributions
- Develop leaders capable of serving as Water Guardians beyond the club level
- Co-ordinate with Government bodies and other organizations involved in water conservation, to help include People's voices in government policies.

What Support will you get?

Water Guardians International and FORCE offer a variety of resources to help you get the most from your membership.

- Financial support for your projects from the 'Celebrate As You Donate' corpus
- Collaborations with government, media, technical experts and other clubs
- Yearly events
- Operational, implementation and fund raising support
- Creative and networking support

Running a Club

Water Guardians International is a grass root organization, and its service efforts are carried out at the club level. Effective club operations include both administrative and service responsibilities. And effective Water Guardians Club is able to:

- *Develop strong bonds between its members*
- *Sustain or increase its membership base*
- *Implement successful projects that address the needs of their community and communities in other areas.*
- *Create strong linkages with other change makers including government, experts, leaders and donors.*
- *Support Water Guardian International through both program participation and financial contributions.*
- *Develop leaders, thinkers and doers capable of serving In Water Guardian's and beyond.*

The Administrative set-up will include a Governing Body, nominated by rotation / election, on a yearly basis. Annual Reports and Audited Accounts will be submitted to Water Guardians International and FORCE every year.

Running a District

Water Guardians District exists to help Water Guardian Clubs excel. Districts connect clubs with each other and to resources from Administration. They also train club leaders and facilitate programs such as Water Guardian Awards and monitor the club activities to ensure that members get the most from their membership and shine as water saviours in their communities.

Policies and Procedures

The Water Guardians International Constitution provides the foundation for Water Guardians' policies and procedures and can be changed only through a Council on Legislation. Every club and district is

entitled to propose amendments to constitutional documents by submitting legislation to the Council on Legislation. The constitutional documents can be found in the Manual of Procedure.

Club and district leaders can use the Manual of Procedure to better understand Water Guardian International and the policies and procedures relevant to their responsibilities. The Water Guardians Board of Directors also issues policy decisions that are compiled in the Water Guardian Code of Policies.

Implementation and Review Mechanisms for the Plan

This manual is a living document. It will be reviewed, assessed and adapted to ensure it facilitates the WGI in reaching its potential.