

# WRONGVILLE / RIGHTVILLE

Which Town Do You Live In?

## What makes a healthy watershed?

It's just about good housekeeping, not littering! Let's explore the drawing below and find out what you can do to live in a place like Rightville and stay out of Wrongville.

## What happens if you drop trash onto the street instead of into a trashcan?

Not only is it an eyesore, but if that trash is not picked up, it will end up in a local waterway, either directly or via storm drains. The trash ends up in rivers or the ocean, contaminating the water and harming people, plants, and animals.



### Put trash where it belongs.

Practice the three R's. **Reduce**—try not to produce trash. **Reuse**—as many products as you can, and always remember to **Recycle**.

Remember, bottle caps, cigarette butts, and other tiny pieces of trash belong in trashcans. If there is litter on the street, pick it up and throw it away.

Practice proper disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronic waste (e-waste). HHW is cleaning supplies, automotive products, household batteries, and other household chemicals that we no longer want. E-waste, including computer monitors and television sets, also contains hazardous materials. Take these items to special collection events held in your community.



### Use renewable energy.

Solar power, wind energy, and other forms of renewable energy are natural and environmentally friendly. Support a cleaner watershed by placing solar panels on your home. Remember to conserve energy.



### Pick up after your pets.

If you leave pet droppings on the ground, water will wash the waste, which carries diseases, into a river or ocean, contaminating the water and making people and animals sick.



### Reduce pesticide use.

Eliminate, or cut down, on the use of herbicides, pesticides, and other chemicals in and around your home's landscaping. These chemicals, especially if the lawn is over-watered, flow down the street and into the local waterway.



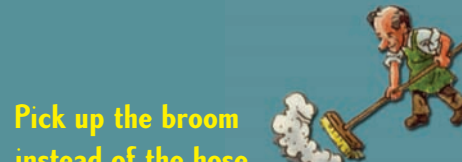
### Plan your landscaping.

Use drought tolerant plants. Use creative landscaping to reduce the amount of cement area around your home to prevent runoff.



### Watch your yard waste.

Lawn clippings, leaves, and other yard wastes decompose rapidly. Their decomposition robs the water of oxygen, killing animal and plant life in the waterways. Make sure yard waste is picked up and properly disposed, or better yet, compost it and use it as a soil amendment for the garden.



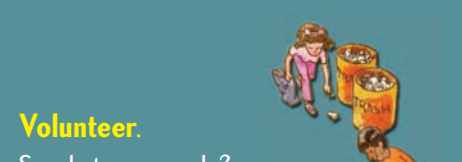
### Pick up the broom instead of the hose.

If you hose down your driveway or other paved areas, the water carries dirt, trash, and any other contaminants in your neighborhood to the storm drains and eventually to the ocean. Sweeping is the better choice.



### Travel wisely.

Carpooling to school and work helps reduce the amount of vehicles in the streets, and cuts smog and other pollution in your watershed. Taking the bus or train helps too. However, the cleanest and healthiest form of transportation is your own two feet, either biking or walking.



### Volunteer.

So what can you do? The answer is a lot. Watch for neighborhood, river and beach cleanup events in the local papers, or get one started on your street or school. Introduce your friends and family to the practices that make a healthy neighborhood and watershed. Remember, no one wants to live in Wrongville, but you need to care if you want your neighborhood to be like Rightville.



### Check for oil leaks.

Keep your cars in good condition and check to see that there is no oil leaking from under them. If you perform oil changes at home, make sure that the used oil is taken to a used motor oil collection facility for recycling or to a HHW Roundup.

## So, what can you do?

Take care of your watershed! A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common waterway, such as a river, stream, lake, wetlands, estuary, or ocean. Your watershed is your community and your actions can really impact it. Did you know that by taking care of your watershed, you also take care of your neighborhood? You can make your community a clean and desirable place to live. Living in a healthy watershed is great for you, your neighborhood, and the environment.