

Eric Sheley

Water in the Western US

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Capstone Project

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A local man believes he has a great solution to the water problems that are facing the world, especially the western US. He thinks that by educating the public through demonstration will help people understand the water issues at hand. Using the medium of television with a reality show he hopes to reach more people than ever on the issues of water conservation in America. In a recent interview he explains his new show in detail.

“My idea of how to address the issue of water in the western US is to start a television show. It seems these days TV is a huge medium for communication as well as education. And there is nothing that people seem to like more than a reality show. My show would address, as well as educate the people watching it on water issues and savings.

The format of the show would be similar to those home makeover shows. I would find homeowners who have older homes and or high water bills on average. I would screen the reports and find the best candidates for the show. The show would have small clips throughout explaining history of water in the area, as well as current issues that are or need to be addressed. I would then do an estimate of how much water is being used by the household and how much that costs, as well as the direct impact on the watershed.

The first thing that the crew would start with would be to check for water wasting such as leaks. These would all be fixed and new efficient water saving fixtures such as toilets, faucets and showers would be put in. Then all appliances would be replaced with new water saving and energy efficient products. After these few improvements we would revisit the original water consumption number and show how much savings have already been achieved.

The next step would be to xeriscape the front lawn of the home. Then change any irrigation over to efficient water saving systems. Also issues such as using pool covers would be addressed and implemented. Then after all of that I would teach the household better water conservation habits. After all of this was done I would surprise the household with how much water they are saving as well as how much money will be saved by all of the new water conservation skills they have learned through the process of the show. “

It seems that this is a great idea that could possibly work. With California being in one of the worst droughts in recent history, as well as other regions of America suffering this may be what we need to change people's ideals of water consumption and efficiency. The show Water in America will premiere on July 7th at 8:00pm ET on NBC. Make sure to tune in and see how you can save water in your own home.