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Media Contacts:

Katie Cullipher, HRPDC Principal Environmental
Education Planner

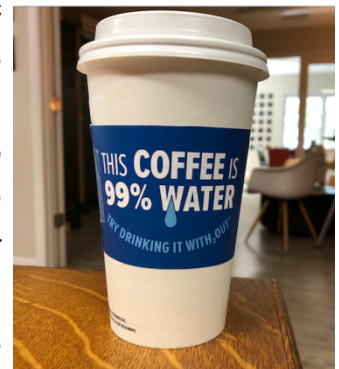
(757) 420-8300; kcullipher@hrpdcva.gov

Elizabeth Evans, Red Chalk Studios

(757) 705-7153; elizabeth@redchalkstudios.com

Imagine a Day Without Water (or Coffee or Beer), October 23
Local coffee shops and breweries invited to bring awareness to
the region's clean, reliable water systems

(Hampton Roads, Va., Oct. 18, 2019) – Fact: Your coffee, that aromatic brew you reach for first thing in the morning, is 99 percent water. It's hard to imagine life without it, not to mention the occasional beer when you're celebrating. That's the exact point that askHRgreen.org wants to convey by inviting local coffee shops and breweries to participate in the annual "Imagine a Day Without Water" awareness campaign, October 23.



The event is part of a national advocacy and awareness promotion that addresses the importance of maintaining the water and wastewater systems that bring a steady flow of water to and from residents, businesses, schools, hospitals and emergency outlets.

Establishments that sign on to the local "Imagine a Day Without Water" campaign will receive free special-edition coffee sleeves or coasters to hand out with their drinks, along with prize packs to raffle off to customers. In addition, they will be promoted on the askHRgreen.org website via an online map with pins for all participating businesses.

"This is a fun way to get across a serious message—that we shouldn't take water for granted," said Katie Cullipher, askHRgreen.org team leader. "No water? No coffee or beer. But a day without water also means no bathing, brushing your teeth, flushing a commode or filling your dog's water bowl."

Collecting, storing, treating, and bringing water to and from homes and commercial enterprises is the job of the region's municipal utilities and HRSD. In Hampton Roads, the public water systems are supported by 12 drinking water treatment plants with over 50 wells and 21

reservoirs storing over 34 billion gallons of water. Once all this water is used, more than 1,500 pump stations carry sewage to the 10 wastewater treatment plants across the region.

These two systems keep the region's 17 cities and counties humming, from hotels to hospitals, factories to power plants, and carwashes to aquariums.

"While our region's water and wastewater systems may be out of sight, they should not be out of mind," said Cullipher. "They work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to bring clean water to us and take sewage away to be treated before it is released safely back into the environment."

The list of participating coffee shops and breweries—and a sign-up area for businesses that want to register— is available at <https://askhrgreen.org/withoutwater/>. In addition to frequenting one of these businesses on October 23, Hampton Roads residents can show their support year-round by adopting the following good-to-do practices:

- Use water wisely at home by:
 - Checking for leaky faucets and toilets
 - Turning off the faucet when brushing your teeth
 - Washing only full loads of dishes and laundry
 - Taking shorter showers
 - Flushing only your personal business down the toilet to avoid backups (no wipes, paper towels, cat litter, hygiene products)
- Keep local waterways clean by:
 - Picking up after your pet
 - Not over fertilizing your lawn
 - Not feeding ducks, geese or other waterfowl
 - Pumping out your boats at an approved pump out station



About askHRgreen.org

[askHRgreen.org](https://askhrgreen.org) is your go-to resource for all things green in Hampton Roads – from recycling tips and pointers for keeping local waterways clean to water-saving ideas and simple steps to make local living easy on the environment. Launched in 2011, the region-wide public awareness and education campaign is administered through the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and powered by the following members: The cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg; the counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Southampton, Surry and York; the town of Smithfield; and HRSD. Like askHRgreen.org on [Facebook](#), follow on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), tune in to [YouTube](#) and catch the "Green Living" [blog](#), written by a team of local experts.