

## **Water Theatre Project 2018 CWCB Colorado Water Plan Grant Report**



*WaterWise Circa 2018 Performers at the Denver Metro Water Festival*

### **Summary:**

The main objective of the Water Theatre project was to increase 5th and 6th grader's knowledge of Colorado water through a polished, informative and creative theatre performance at the Aurora, Boulder and Denver Water Festivals in May 2018. This report summarizes the work involved in completing this project.

Task 1: Water Utilities will update performers on current Colorado Water concepts. Performers will then update the performance piece for 2018 including any new information if necessary. Rehearsals will be held to refine and polish the WaterWise Circa 2018 performance.

This task was completed from January through April 2018. Through conversations with the partner organizations it was determined that performer's current water knowledge met expectations and the performance piece still included all relevant and timely topics. Rehearsals were conducted by Dr. Marilyn Hetzel at MSU Denver. Adjustments were made for incorporating two new performers.

Task 2: WaterWise Circa 2018 theatre performance will be performed at the Aurora, Boulder and Denver Water Festivals in May of 2018.

The Water Theatre Company completed this task by conducting five performances of WaterWise Circa 2018 at the following Water Festival Events:

- Boulder Water Festival - Tues. May 15<sup>th</sup> at the University of Colorado - Boulder Campus
- Denver Water Festival - Wed. May 16<sup>th</sup> at the MSU Denver Campus
- Aurora Water Festival - Thurs. May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Community College of Aurora Campus

All matching commitments from partner organizations have been fulfilled.



*5th Graders in Aurora Enjoying the Performance*

### **Evaluation of the Program:**

2,113 total students saw the WaterWise Circa performances at the three water festivals. In order to gauge the effectiveness of the performance evaluation of the program was conducted by using three methods:

1. Voting

Students at the Aurora Youth Water Festival were given gold coins after the performance and were asked to place the coins in one of two jars. The jars were labeled “I learned something new about Water” and “I did not learn something new about water.”

2. Survey Cards

Students at the Boulder and Denver Festivals wrote their answers to a series of questions on a card immediately after watching the performances.

3. Interviews

Students who saw the performance were asked questions about their experience after seeing the performance.

1,645 students (78%) responded with voting and survey cards. 87% of those students indicated that they learned something new about water from watching the performance. 697 students wrote about what they would do differently regarding water after seeing the performance. The majority of students indicated that they would take shorter showers. Please see the following charts for details on the survey answers.



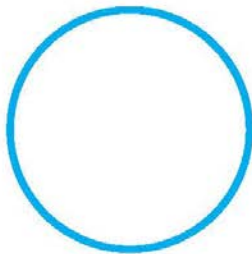
### Survey Card:

Students at the Denver and Boulder Water Festivals were all scheduled to stay in the theatre space and have lunch after the performance. At that time they were asked to fill out the survey card. Scheduling did not allow this to happen at the Aurora Water Festival so a quicker voting method was used to gauge the answer to “Did you learn something new about water that you didn’t know before?” question.

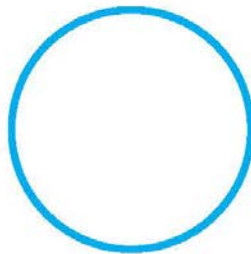
**Performers and Director- Dr. Marilyn Hetzel**

Did you learn something new about water that you didn’t know before?

Mark your answer by putting a sticker in the circle!



Yes



No

What did you learn from the performance?

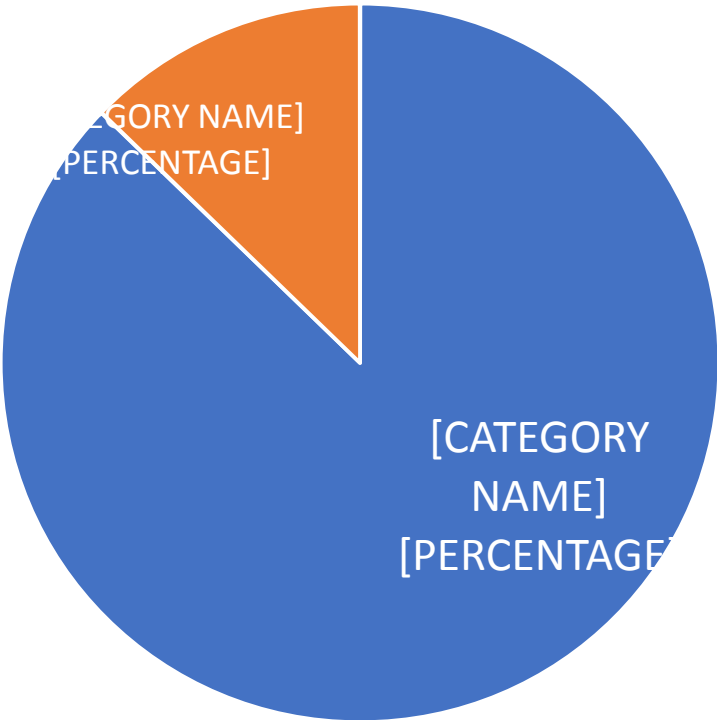
Write your answer in the space below!

What is the one thing you are going to do differently to protect water?

Write your answer in the space below!

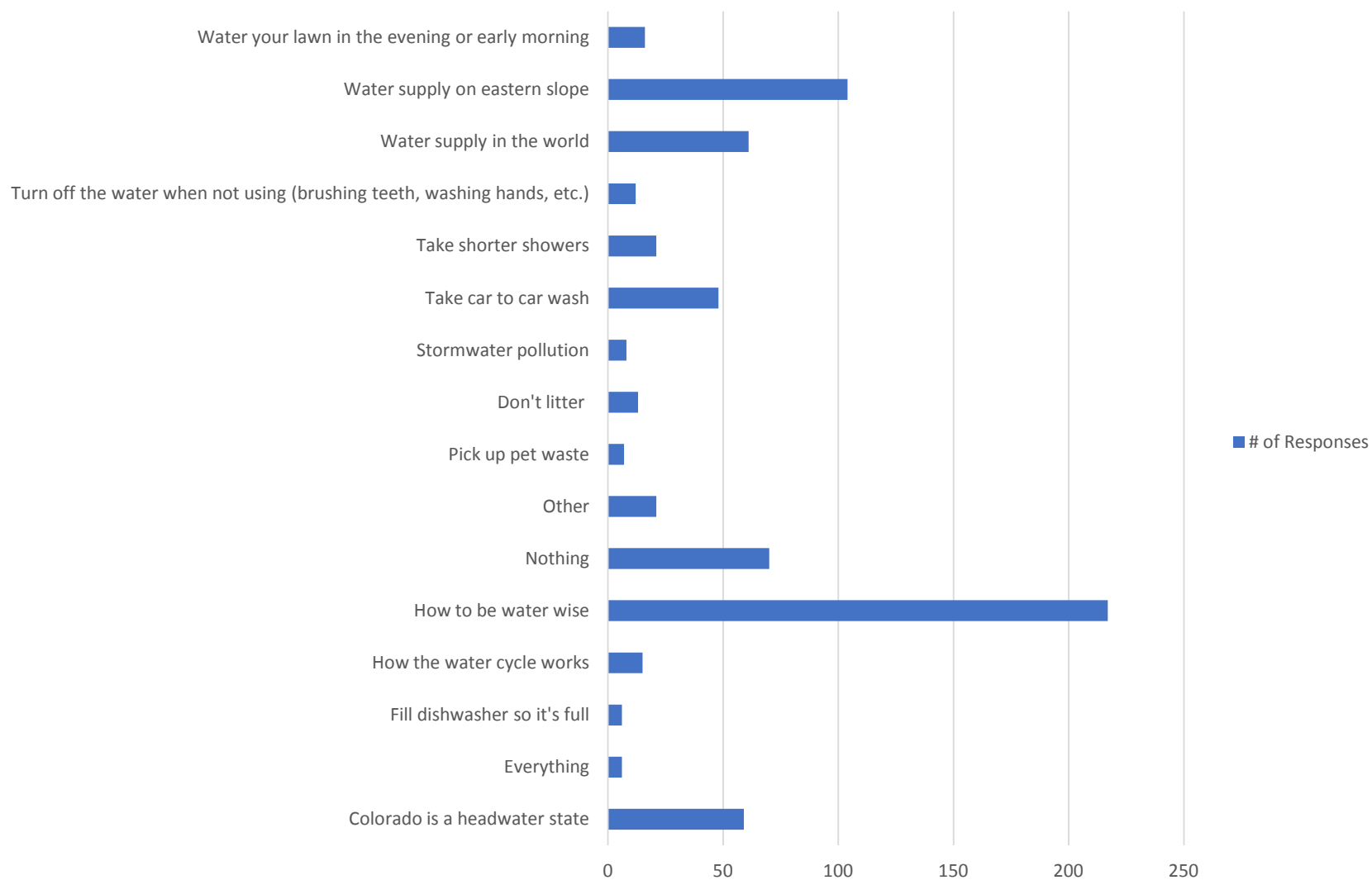


Did you learn something new about water that you didn't know before?



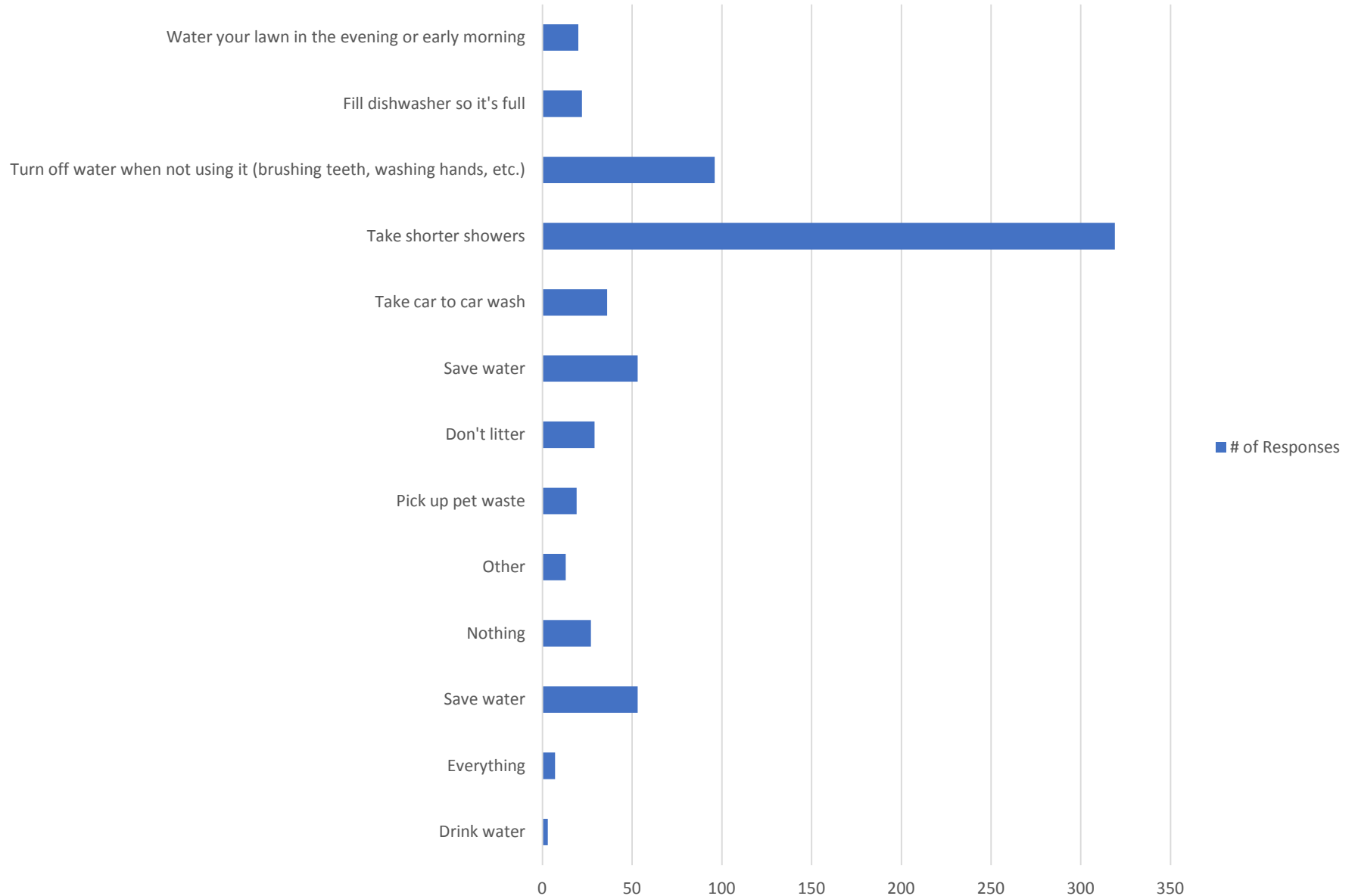
Did you learn something new about water that you didn't know before?	# of Responses from all 3 festivals
Yes	1435
No	210

## What did you learn from the performance?



What did you learn from the performance?	# of Responses
Colorado is a headwater state	59
Everything	6
Fill dishwasher so it's full	6
How the water cycle works	15
How to be water wise	217
Nothing	70
Other	21
Pick up pet waste	7
Don't litter	13
Stormwater pollution	8
Take car to car wash	48
Take shorter showers	21
Turn off the water when not using (brushing teeth, washing hands, etc.)	12
Water supply in the world	61
Water supply on eastern slope	104
Water your lawn in the evening or early morning	16

## What is one thing you are going to do differently to protect water?



What is one thing you are going to do differently to protect water?	# of Responses
Drink water	3
Everything	7
Save water	53
Nothing	27
Other	13
Pick up pet waste	19
Don't litter	29
Save water	53
Take car to car wash	36
Take shorter showers	319
Turn off water when not using it (brushing teeth, washing hands, etc.)	96
Fill dishwasher so it's full	22
Water your lawn in the evening or early morning	20



## **Interviews:**

In addition to collecting quantitative data after the performance the partners in this program agreed that qualitative data would reveal further insights into the student's experience. Interviews were conducted with students after seeing the performance to get a better sense of what they really thought about the performance. Results from interviews were consistent with written results. Many of the students listed things that they would be willing to do regarding water protection and water conservation. They were generally very excited about the performance and commented that it was a fun way to learn and very creative. 111 out of 126 students who were interviewed said they learned something interesting about water. 39 students said they would share the information they learned with friends and family. The following are some representative quotes from the interviews:

Interviewer: What was the most memorable thing you saw today?

Student: "The theatre performance because it was funny."

"We learned from the theatre performance because it was fun and because they were showed an action (we) could do to help."

Adults who viewed the performances were also affected by the message. During the interviews a parent chaperone said, "I am a Colorado native and I didn't know that Colorado is a headwater state or what that even means."

A teacher from Lansing Elementary said that she really hoped the theatre would continue at the festival.

## Media Coverage:

Denver Channel 7 covered the performance at the 2018 Denver Metro Water Festival. Please see the full story at: <https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/our-colorado/msu-denver-uses-theater-to-teach-kids-about-water-conservation>

# MSU Denver uses theater to teach kids about water conservation

Our Colorado: Teaching to save water through art



Eric Lupher

4:38 PM, May 19, 2018

6:13 PM, May 19, 2018

[msu denver](#) | [denver](#) | [local](#)

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Water is Colorado's most precious natural resource, and Colorado's children represent our future water stewards. Conservation is becoming more and more important as Colorado's population continues to grow.

