

Water Cycle

Evaporation occurs when the sun heats up the surface water and turns it into vapor. Some water is evaporated from the plants through transpiration from the leaves.

Evaporation



Precipitation



The water vapor is carried by the winds higher and higher. As the vapor rises the air cools and the vapor condenses. The drops combine to form large drops. When the cloud can not hold any more liquid it falls back to the earth as precipitation in the form of rain, hail, sleet or snow.

Storm Water



If the precipitation lands on the ground it will either soak back into the ground to become part of an underground aquifer or it will run off the land into the river. Either can be used for drinking water.

As water moves downstream it is used over and over as the source water for the next drinking water!

Source Water



This process can be altered by billions of people in the world that use water for numerous purposes. The water can be moved to where it is needed by piping, transfers, recycling and more.

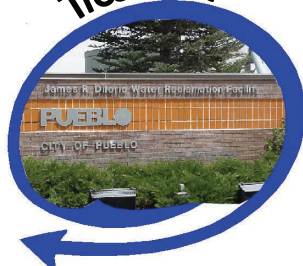
Downstream



Rivers



Wastewater Treatment



Water Supply



River water or groundwater is treated at the Water Treatment Plant and then delivered to homes for use inside and outside.

Once used, properly trained personnel are needed to treat the wastewater before it is discharged back to the streams and oceans.