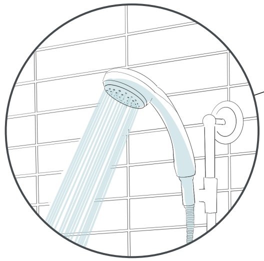
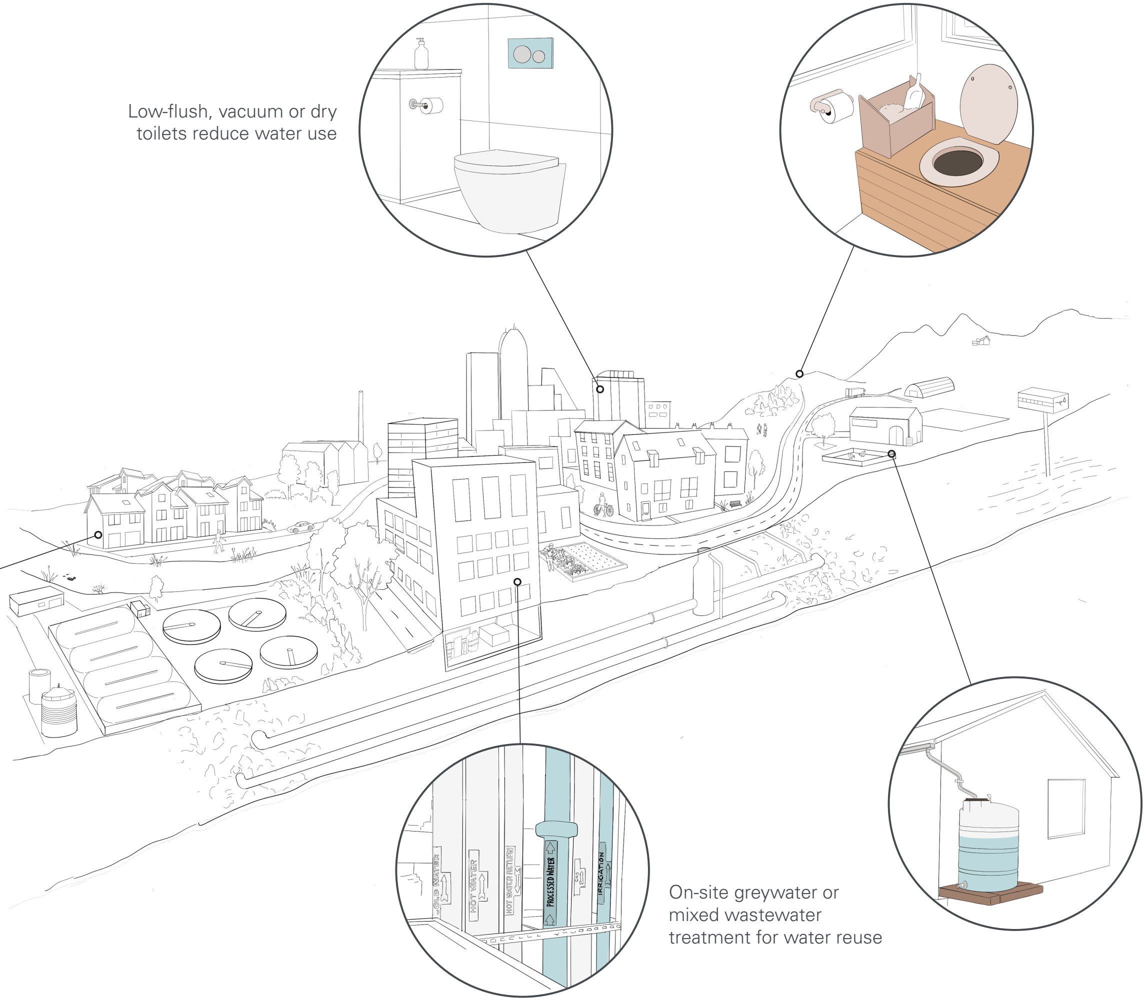
SAVE WATER

eawag
aquatic research

GOAL

The availability and reliability of freshwater resources are under increasing pressure from climate change (e.g., warmer weather, heat waves and droughts) and rapid urbanization (i.e., increased demand). Decreased and variable supply, as well as increased abstraction, use, and disposal are increasing water scarcity in many parts of the world, not just in arid environments. Reducing water demand, reusing water on site, and tapping into renewable water sources (e.g., rainwater) increases local water availability.





REDUCE WATER USE

Swap out water-intensive appliances and toilets, with waterless and water-efficient alternatives. Appliances can be anything from faucet fittings to water recirculating showers to dry or vacuum toilets. Such fixtures minimize water demand, and some also reduce the energy demand needed to heat the water.

REUSE WATER

Treat used water (e.g. greywater, blackwater, mixed water) streams to provide an alternative water supply for non-potable and potable reuse. Depending on the desired end use, water is treated to match end use demand for quality and quantity, to provide reliable and safe water supply. Reusing water minimizes demand for drinking water supply and diverts hydraulic flow to existing sewer infrastructure.

CAPTURE RAINWATER

Harvest rainwater for fit-for-purpose reuse. Depending on the desired end-use, these water sources can be treated to match end-use demand for quality and quantity, including irrigation, non-potable reuse and potable reuse. Using captured water minimizes demand for drinking water supply and diverts hydraulic flow to existing sewer infrastructure.

References and further information available at www.eawag.ch/en/wh/toolbox