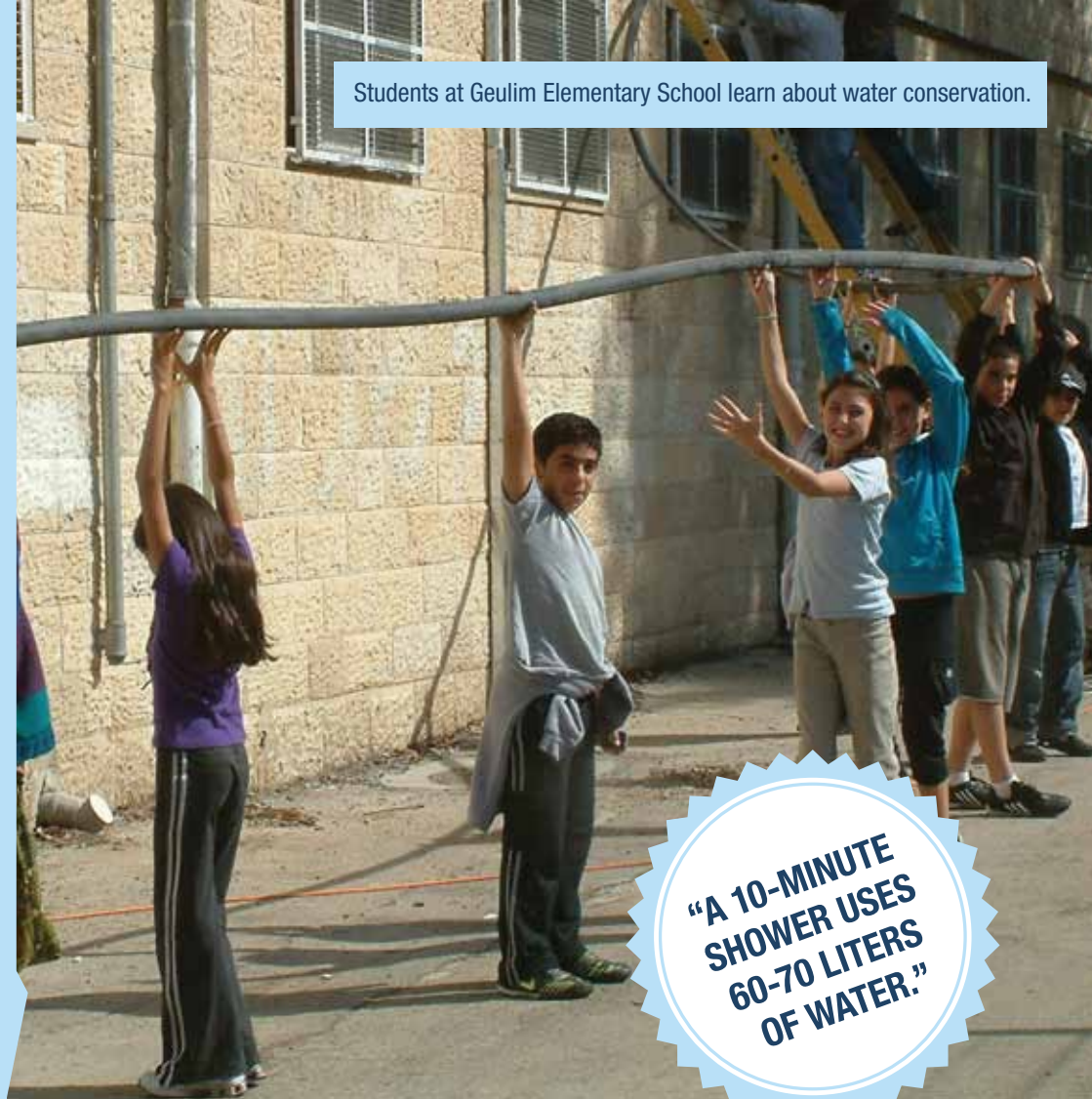


## REVOLUTIONIZING A GENERATION THROUGH RAINWATER HARVESTING



Students at Geulim Elementary School learn about water conservation.

**“A 10-MINUTE SHOWER USES 60-70 LITERS OF WATER.”**

“DON'T LEAVE ME OPEN,” the sign above the sink in a bathroom at Jerusalem's Geulim Elementary School reads. Over another sink, the admonishment, “It's not automatic, you know! You have to close it yourself,” speaks volumes.

“We hung up signs all over the school,” said one student, “all to teach people and remind them how important it is to save water. We got so into it that it really became a matter of pride for us to learn how much water we were saving.”

Under the tutelage of Roei Yehuda, a guide with Green Horizons/Hugey Sayarut—the Zionist and environmental youth development program in Israel that fosters independence, initiative, leadership, responsibility, companionship, caring, and involvement in the community through outdoor activities—the Geulim students spent a year learning about one of the most pervasive issues in Israel today: the water crisis.

“The solution to this crisis must come from both the careful use of water as well as education,” said Yehuda. “The Rainwater Harvesting Program is about educating children of all ages

to understand what we're dealing with, how it concerns them in their everyday life, and what they can do.”

The program at Geulim was funded by JNFuture as part of the JNF Parsons Water Fund—a \$100 million initiative to increase Israel's supply of high-quality water by more than 440 billion gallons over the next decade. The Rainwater Harvesting Program was developed by Israeli schoolteacher Amir Yechieli with the dual purpose of conservation and education. Tanks are installed on school rooftops to collect and reuse rainwater that would otherwise be wasted, reducing each school's reliance on other sources of water by 77%. Students are involved in the planning and management of the system and participate in a dynamic educational curriculum—led by Green Horizons members—that teaches them about the water crisis and the need for conservation.

Making the school water system economical was only the first step. The message of conservation has to filter up as well. After educating the schoolchildren about wasteful water use habits, the focus was switched to their families' water

consuming habits. Surprising facts about wasteful water consumption were discovered.

“Everyday activities use up a lot of water,” said a student. “I could not believe that a 10-minute shower uses 60-70 liters of water.”

“Roei showed us how to test, examine and even repair the tanks installed on the school's rooftop,” said another student. “It really helped us understand the importance of what we were doing. I especially liked when he brought in 100 empty 1.5 liter water bottles so we could really understand what it means that the average person uses approximately 150 liters of water a day. I was shocked.

“I hung up a sign in the bathroom at home,” he continued. “It says: ‘Every minute you spend in this shower is 6-7 liters. Is it worth it? Hurry up!’ And my family is listening. I guess it's hard to ignore a child when they're asking you to do something positive for the environment and for the country.”

THE COST OF IMPLEMENTING THIS 5-YEAR PROGRAM IN EACH SCHOOL IS \$50,000. THE MONEY SAVED ON WATER-RELATED EXPENSES IS EARMARKED FOR CONTINUED FUNDING, MAKING THE PROGRAM SELF-SUSTAINING. SIXTY-NINE SCHOOLS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE; THE GOAL IS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM IN AS MANY SCHOOLS AS POSSIBLE THROUGHOUT ISRAEL. TO LEARN MORE VISIT [WWW.JNF.ORG/WATER](http://WWW.JNF.ORG/WATER) OR CALL YOUR LOCAL OFFICE AT 1-888-JNF-0099.