**Watershed citizens assignment** Names \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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We’ll begin class by watching a 10-minute video about the Brandywine Valley Association’s Red Streams to Blue project, a stream restoration effort near West Chester (<http://vimeo.com/35766326>). The water footprint project focused on our demand side for water; this film reminds us that we’re all watershed citizens and that what we do in our homes and towns, as individuals and as members of groups such as the BVA, can have a big effect on water quality and supply.

As you watch the film keep your eyes open for the following interconnections and take notes:

* between land surface (watershed) and stream;
* between surface water and groundwater;
* between natural processes and human processes;
* between resources and risks;
* between our home (or campus) and the rest of the watershed.

You were assigned to read Sandra Postel’s chapter in The Post Carbon Reader. Here’s part:

As with many challenges, finding the best solutions requires first asking the right questions. Typically, when planners and engineers see a water shortage on the horizon, they ask themselves what options exist to expand the supply. The typical answer: Get more water from a distant river, deeper wells, or a desalination plant.

But as the limitations of these “supply-side” options have become more apparent, a vanguard of citizens, communities, farmers, and corporations has started asking a different question: What do we really need the water for, and can we meet that need with less? The upshot of this shift in thinking is a new movement in water management that is much more about ideas, ingenuity, and ecological intelligence than it is about pumps, pipelines, dams, and canals.

This smarter path takes many forms, but it embodies two strategic attributes. First, solutions tend to work with nature, rather than against it. In this way, they make effective use of so-called ecosystem services—the benefits provided by healthy watersheds, rivers, wetlands, and other ecological systems. And second, through better technologies and more informed choices, these solutions seek to raise water productivity—the benefit derived from each liter of water extracted from a river, lake, or aquifer.

Sandra Postel, Water: Adapting to a new normal. The Post Carbon Reader: Managing the 21st Century's Sustainability Crises (Kindle Locations 1708-1718). Watershed Media in collaboration with Post Carbon Institute. Kindle Edition.

Discuss how the video relates to Postel’s ideas, particularly in terms of the strategic attributes.

If we’re going to be sustainable following Ehrenfeld’s guidelines then we need to think about how all people and other life can flourish within the limits of the planet. How have the water footprint activity and this one helped you better understand your sense of connection to nature and other people?

What specific steps toward sustainability do you think you’ve learned from these activities?