

Water Scarcity

Climate change is causing some regions to experience reduced water availability, causing drought, famine, and raising costs of clean water. By changing water use practices, we can ensure that everyone has access to clean drinking water.

1.2 Billion People globally don't have access to clean water.

By 2025 50% of the world will live in water stressed area (WHO)



ONLY 0.4% OF EARTH'S WATER IS POTABLE

Causes of Scarcity

Overuse

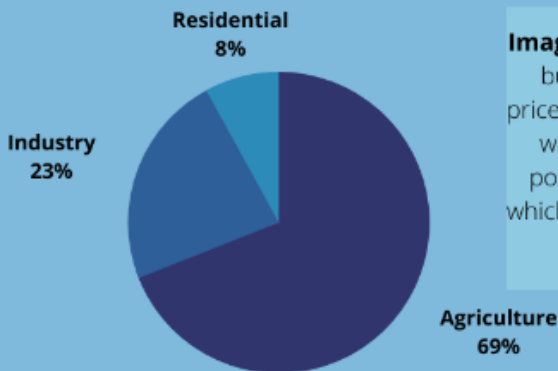
Overuse depletes water sources quickly with no secondary source.

Climate Change

Increasing global temperatures cause extended and more severe droughts.

Pollution

Pollution can cause existing water sources to be unsafe.

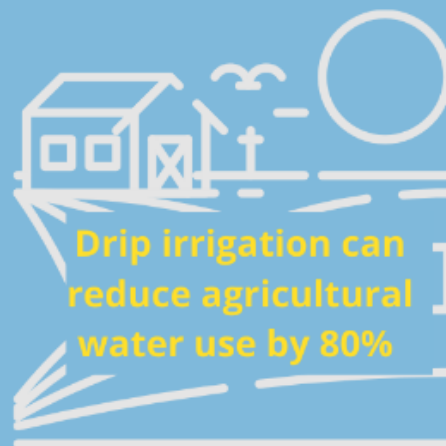


Imagine: you turn on the faucet and no water comes out. You run to the store, but there are long lines of people to purchase bottled water with sky high prices. This is a growing reality in regions around the world. Current methods of water use are **unsustainable** in the face of climate change: drought and pollution harm **ecosystem** and **human health**. Water scarcity raises costs which hurts low income folks and small-scale farms, which harms the **economy** for everyone. This will only worsen as the climate warms.

fig 1. Worldwide freshwater use

What can be done?

Freshwater availability is a **complex system** including climate change, precipitation, and consumption. As seen in Fig. 1, agriculture uses the highest percentage of fresh water, so **reducing agricultural water use** will have a powerful positive impact. Requiring the use of drip irrigation on farms can conserve freshwater by reducing waste by 80%.



SCAN TO FIND MORE WAYS TO PRESERVE WATER



What you can do:

- Urge your state legislators to regulate agricultural irrigation practices
- Support small scale farms!
- Reduce your consumption of water and water-intensive crops such as animal products.