

HOW CAN YOUR TEAM INCREASE THE WORLD'S ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER?

Each 6 – 8 member team of Student Ambassadors (one team per table) has pledged to increase the world's access to clean water. The United Nations' sustainability secretary has to decide which of the solutions or mix of solutions is best to solve the clean water crisis.

The UN sustainability secretary must hear each team's case to decide which one is best. **Your team has to persuade the rest of the teams that your solution is the most effective, practical and sustainable. Each team must present to the other teams using a creative visual description of their solution (one scribe, one speaker on each team)**

- Team I: Water Conservation and Private Ownership
- Team II: Water Treaties and Drip Irrigation
- Team III: Desalination and Rainwater Harvesting
- Team IV: Water Recycling and Drip Irrigation
- Team V: Water Treaties and Private Ownership
- Team VI: Water Recycling and Desalination

Drip Irrigation

Drip irrigation can be extremely helpful in areas where water is scarce or expensive. It uses water more efficiently than conventional irrigation methods by releasing the water slowly to a specific area at the plants' roots. Instead of wasting water because it cannot all be absorbed into the ground, the water placed by drip irrigation systems has time to be absorbed where plants most need it.

Water Conservation

In many areas water is being pumped out of the ground faster than it can be replenished. Enhanced water conservation will allow water supplies to be used more effectively. By educating people to retrofit their facets and shower-heads, displace water in their toilet tank, and fix water leaks, millions of gallons of water could be saved every day.

Water Treaties

Conflict over water resources is an ever-growing problem. Our dwindling water resources and growing demand for water create the potential for large-scale competition and conflict between nations over shared water supplies. Past water treaties have been created in order to avert conflict and divide limited resources in reasonable ways. These treaties provide a structure for nations to address their differences in managing and monitoring shared resources.

Private Ownership

Private companies now control the water supplies in some areas. Often, this creates a more efficient system and allows more people access to available water. Yet, while water companies are able to update water systems, making them more efficient and more accountable to consumers, they can also make water very costly to the poor. In addition, many people believe that water is a public resource and should not be owned by individuals or corporations.

Desalination

Desalination is the process of removing sodium chloride (salt) from water. Since most of the earth's water is salt water in the oceans, desalination could create a much greater amount of available fresh water to the world's population. However, because it is so costly and energy-intensive, large amounts of money would need to be invested in this process.

Water Recycling

Water recycling is the process of reusing treated waste water for valuable, non-drinking purposes such as watering lawns or golf courses, industrial processes, and toilet flushing. By recycling our water, we could save a great deal of energy that is normally used on water treatment, and lower the cost of water bills.

Rainwater Harvesting

Rainwater harvesting means catching and using rain water where it falls. People can build cisterns or wells in order to help capture the rain water. Often, this system saves much time and energy but can only be used in areas with abundant rainfall. It is very important, however, that the water does not become contaminated in the holding areas and that it is sanitized before drinking.

Case is an adaptation of handout #2 – Global Concerns Classroom