Global water reuse

Wastewater reuse helps address growing global water scarcity

1 billion people globally do not have access to clean, drinkable water.

By 2030, half the world’s population will face water scarcity.

3-step process of treating wastewater

1. Ultrafiltration of treated wastewater removes solids, oils and bacteria.
2. Reverse osmosis pushes the treated wastewater through a fine plastic membrane that filters out viruses and pharmaceuticals.
3. Ultraviolet light removes any remaining organic compounds.

Facts

Recycled sewage will be a normalized source of drinking water in cities around the world within 30 years.

Global underutilization of wastewater is comparable to the outflow from the Mississippi River into the Gulf of Mexico for 14 months.

Percent of generated wastewater treated, by country:

- 70% High-income countries
- 38% Upper-middle income countries
- 28% Lower-middle income countries
- 8% Low-income countries

Stats

In Texas, water reuse projects and plants are using potable-reuse technology to produce 2-5 million gallons of water a day.

Florida reuses 660 million gallons of reclaimed water each day.

Only about 32% of the wastewater generated in Asia is treated.

Perth, Australia will receive up to 20% of its drinking water from reclaimed sources in coming decades.

China experiences a water deficit of 10.5 trillion gallons each year.

Sources:

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