



2018 Year in Review

The Pacific Institute creates and advances solutions to the world's most pressing water challenges through groundbreaking research and analysis, partnerships and collaboration, policy engagement, and strategic outreach.



Our Research

We begin with complex water challenges, then apply rigorous analysis to find the answers and develop robust recommendations for effective water policy. Some of the issues we examined in 2018:

- We revamped our [Water Conflict Chronology](#), the most comprehensive open-source database on violence related to global water resources. This work, delivered to the UN Secretary General and the UN Security Council, has brought attention to the acceleration of water-related conflicts around the globe, as well as potential solutions.
- [Integrating Water Efficiency into Long-Term Demand Forecasting](#), co-authored by the Pacific Institute, provided water planners and managers with guidance on improving long-range water demand

forecasts by accounting for water-efficiency improvements, avoiding millions of dollars in unnecessary expenditures and higher water rates.

- [Measuring Progress Toward Universal Access to Water and Sanitation in California](#) investigated what realizing the human right to water would mean for Californians in terms that are concrete, measurable, and aligned with the state's prevailing laws and norms.

Amplifying Our Research Through Policy Engagement

In 2018, we collaborated with water suppliers, state agencies, businesses, UN agencies, and environmental and social justice organizations to embed our groundbreaking research into policy and practice. For example:

- Preceding the passage of California's Assembly Bill 1668 and Senate Bill 606 in May 2018, we worked closely with a broad coalition to advance legislation that ensures California makes the most of the state's precious water resources and that can serve as a model to be adopted elsewhere. These laws were passed on the heels of years of Pacific Institute research demonstrating the efficacy of water efficiency for ensuring long-term water security and climate resiliency.
- Building on decades of work in California, we were selected as members of two key advisory groups to help prepare California for longer, more intense droughts caused by climate change. The Urban Advisory Group advises the state on improving water use efficiency and drought preparedness for large water suppliers. The County Drought Advisory Group advises the state on drought plans for small water suppliers and rural communities, a key recommendation of our 2017 report [Drought and Equity in California](#).
- In our unique role as Co-Secretariat of the UN Global Compact's [CEO Water Mandate](#), we leveraged the power of the private sector to successfully manage water challenges in river basins around the world. [In 2018](#), we worked with UN Global Compact's [local networks](#) to advance water stewardship among the business community in Brazil, India, and South Africa, garnering water stewardship commitments from 18 new companies.



Progress Through Dialogue and Collaboration

In 2018, we brought together stakeholders with varied interests and goals to establish common ground and find a way forward on vital water issues. For example:

- We brought businesses and stakeholders together at World Water Week in Stockholm, the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia, and the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco to examine how the private sector could address issues related to climate change; sustainable agriculture; and water, sanitation, and hygiene.
- We launched pilots in six river basins worldwide, including in California, South Africa, and India, to help companies meaningfully address local water challenges by developing appropriate water sustainability targets.
- We convened meetings across the U.S. on how incorporating co-benefits into water management decisions can optimize sustainability outcomes and investments. For example, water efficiency improvements save water while also reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.
- We brought stakeholders together to discuss strategies for measuring progress on the realization of the human right to water and sanitation in California.
- We brought Southern California water managers and business owners together to explore the opportunities and challenges for advancing sustainable landscapes on commercial and industrial properties.



Shaping Water Debates Through the Media



National Geographic: From Not Enough to Too Much, the World's Water Crisis Explained



Esquire: The Water Crises Aren't Coming—They're Here



The Washington Post: Humans are Causing Massive Changes in the Location of Water Around the World, NASA Says



GreenBiz: In Deep Water: Water Economy is Threatened by Climate Change



The Desert Sun: The Salton Sea is Shrinking Even Faster, and California Still Hasn't Done Much to Fix It



Water Deeply: How Communities Are Turning Stormwater from a Liability to an Asset