

The past year has been a challenging one for all of us. From the COVID-19 pandemic to extreme weather events and a racial justice reckoning in the United States that has spread across the globe, 2020 has shown us how far we still have to go. **These events have greatly informed and energized our efforts to advance water resilience in the face of a changing climate.** We have made great strides in advancing our **areas of focus**: Vulnerable Communities, Nature-Based Solutions, and Water Efficiency and Reuse. 2020 was a prolific year as well: we released 26 publications, a 150 percent increase from the previous year. And we strengthened our collaborative partnerships, including launching an ambitious global **initiative** to advance water resilience.



Credit: Water.org

Ensuring Equitable Access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in a Changing Climate

We continued to advance water, sanitation, and hygiene access across the globe. In *Financing Water Supply and Sanitation in a Changing Climate*, produced in collaboration with Water.org, we demonstrated how investments in water supply and sanitation can benefit both the climate and those living in poverty. And in a series of webinars, we showed businesses and NGOs how to ensure access to water, sanitation, and hygiene across company supply chains and in challenging geographies under a changing climate.

Mobilizing the Business Community on Water and Climate Around the Globe

Business has a vital role to play in achieving water resilience – 150 of the world's biggest companies have the potential to influence a third of global freshwater use. Recognizing this, since 2008 the Pacific Institute has been Co-Secretariat of the **CEO Water Mandate**, a UN Global Compact initiative that mobilizes business leaders to help achieve the water-related elements of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This year, the CEO Water Mandate was joined by 25 new endorsing companies, including InterContinental Hotels Group, Kraft Heinz, Novozymes, and Novartis. It also launched a flagship initiative, the **Water Resilience Coalition**, to significantly accelerate progress in water-stressed regions. The coalition now has 18 member companies committed to ambitious goals, including one to achieve net positive water impact in water-stressed regions by 2050.



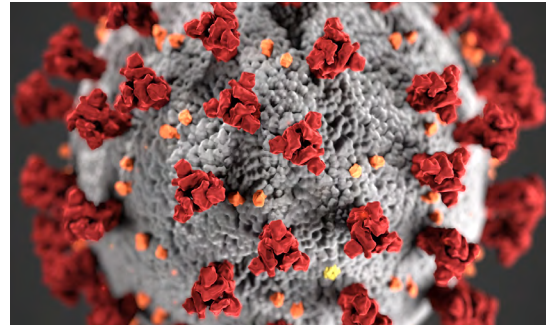
Credit: Znm, Dreamstime





Demonstrating the Connections Between COVID-19 and Water

We launched a Water and Pandemic Task Force to provide timely and actionable insights on the links between water, human health, COVID-19, and the roles of the public and private sector. Comprised of Pacific Institute staff, the task force collaborated with groups from around the world, creating a series of timely “Water and the COVID-19 Pandemic” briefs and fact sheets which were downloaded more than 3000 times. The task force also created a COVID-19 and Water informational [webpage](#) and presented the webinar “[Water and COVID-19: From Risk to Resilience](#)” to an audience of affected communities, policymakers, and NGOs.



Credit: J. Carl Ganter, Circle of Blue

Informing U.S. Water Policy

The Pacific Institute has been crafting water policy recommendations for decades. In September, we developed recommendations for the next United States presidential administration, which we shared with both presidential campaigns. [Water Recommendations to the Next President](#) outlines the nation’s water challenges and calls for swift and meaningful action to carry the nation into an equitable and resilient water future. Then in November, we hosted a [webinar](#) detailing our specific recommendations for the incoming Biden administration.

Supporting Water Resilience Through Nature-Based Solutions

We continued to advance nature-based solutions, with the understanding that climate change – along with the need to address aging infrastructure, population growth, and degraded ecosystems – will require significant investment in built and natural water systems. These investments present a significant opportunity to provide “multiple benefits” economic, social, and environmental. In 2020, we produced and disseminated a [guidebook](#) for water managers to incorporate co-benefits into water management decisions and presented these solutions to a global audience of businesses, NGOs, and policymakers in a series of [webinars](#).



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For additional information and to learn more about our focus areas visit www.pacinst.org.
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