



Water Equity

CHALLENGE

Around the globe, billions of people lack safe drinking water and sanitation. In the United States, more than **2 million people do not have running water or basic plumbing**, and water is unsafe or unaffordable for tens of millions more.

Climate change is worsening inequities in access to clean, reliable, and affordable water and sanitation. Frontline communities who are overburdened and under resourced often do not have a seat at the table when it comes to decisions around water, yet they are often impacted first and worst.

RESPONSE

The Pacific Institute works alongside frontline communities to co-produce decision support research, tools, and resources to **advance equitable access to safe and affordable water and sanitation**. We support communities in building water and sanitation practices and policies that are resilient to the increasing impacts of climate change. Additionally, the Pacific Institute supports utilities, corporations, and other community-serving agencies and organizations in integrating water and climate equity into policies, practices, and programs.

“ By delving into the intersection of water, sanitation, and climate change, this series makes a unique contribution to our understanding of a national crisis. It highlights the necessity of addressing climate impacts in tandem with water and sanitation issues to effectively support frontline communities.

– Alexandra Campbell-Ferrari,
Executive Director of the Center
for Water Security and Cooperation



PRIORITIES

Water, Sanitation, and Climate Change in the United States Series

Climate change, an ever-growing crisis, is damaging water systems and challenging access to clean drinking water and sanitation in the United States. As the climate crisis escalates, so do the risks: an altered water cycle, more extreme weather events, and deteriorating water infrastructure compounding stressors for already overburdened and under resourced communities. To this end, in partnership with DigDeep and the Center for Water Security and Cooperation, this series aims to contribute to closing knowledge gaps at the intersection of climate change, water, and equity in the United States. While individually these topics have received substantial attention, more work is needed to understand how and where they intersect. This series addresses this gap by synthesizing the state of knowledge on the impacts of climate change to water and sanitation for frontline communities, laws and policies that address water, sanitation, and climate change, and strategies and approaches to achieving equitable, climate-resilient water and sanitation.

Equitable, Climate-Resilient Rural Water Systems

Rural water and wastewater systems face clear and growing dangers from climate change impacts. Many factors converge to create inequitable risks, and decision makers must grapple with complex realities when devising and implementing strategies to build resilience. This complexity requires evidence-based approaches to collaborative problem solving. To better understand climate change impacts on water and sanitation in rural communities, the Pacific Institute partners with the Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network and rural technical assistance providers to form the Water and Climate Equity project. These partnerships enable us to work collaboratively with rural communities and their supporters to identify strategies that can strengthen the climate resilience of rural water and sanitation systems, enhance ecosystem health, improve affordability, and address historical inequities.

Water Equity and You

When you support the Pacific Institute, you advance water equity. **Your gift will:**

- Equip experts with the resources they need to build partnerships with local communities, state and federal agencies, Tribes, NGOs, and others.
- Enable rigorous, high quality, evidence-based assessments on strategies for achieving equitable, sustainable, and climate-resilient water systems.
- Advance new strategies to deliver equitable, climate-resilient water access, sanitation, and hygiene for all.

We invite you to support water equity and foster equitable, climate-resilient water and sanitation today.

To learn more and take action:

- **Contact:** Nicole Wickenhauser, Chief Growth Officer, at nwickenhauser@pacinst.org
- **Visit:** <https://pacinst.org/our-impact-areas/water-equity/>
- **Donate:** pacinst.org/support/



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