



## Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

### Goal 6 Targets:

- 6.1) By 2030, achieve **universal and equitable access to safe** and affordable **drinking water** for all.
- 6.2) By 2030, achieve access to **adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all** and **end open defecation**, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.
- 6.3) By 2030, **improve water quality** by **reducing pollution, eliminating dumping** and **minimizing release of hazardous chemicals** and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.
- 6.4) By 2030, substantially **increase water-use efficiency** across all sectors and **ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater** to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.
- 6.5) By 2030, **implement integrated water resources management** at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.
- 6.6) By 2020, **protect and restore water-related ecosystems**, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.
- 6.a) By 2030, **expand international cooperation** and capacity-building **support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities** and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.
- 6.b) Support and strengthen the **participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management**.

*See further resources on goal 6 and water & sanitation on page 4.*

## Take action toward achieving goal 6

### Take action locally:

- **Congregational actions:** *Engage members of your congregation in action either through volunteering, advocacy, exercises, or wider congregational changes.*
  - **Fundraise for the purchase of a [rain barrel](#) for your congregation.** These efficiently reduce stress on the local water supply by reusing collected rainwater for non-potable water needs like landscaping.
  - **Create and sell a congregational [reusable water bottle](#)** to members of your congregation to discourage the purchase of bottled water.
  - **Hold a moment of silence at your congregation's [water ceremony/communion](#) for those lacking access to clean water.** Consider holding a collection for a water/sanitation-related non-profit organization, or a conversation during or after the service on the lack of access to water across the world.
  - **Hold a water-footprint-lowering challenge at your congregation for 2-3 weeks,** involving daily tasks for congregation members to try, including the [5-minute shower challenge](#), washing dishes by hand, going vegetarian for a day, and cutting out almonds or other water-intensive crops from your diet for a day. Have participants track their progress with photos or other evidence, and whoever completes the most challenges wins!
  - **Organize a stream clean-up with members of your congregation,** in support of target 6.6.
  - **Involve members of your congregation in building a [rain garden](#) on congregational property.** Rain gardens are self-sustaining gardens that collect rainwater to water themselves, limiting use of hosewater and lowering your water footprint.
  - **Hold a congregational commemoration of [UN World Water Day](#) on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and [World Toilet Day](#) on November 19<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Petitions:** *Sign the following petitions advocating for universal access to clean water and sanitation in the U.S. and Canada. Collect signatures at your congregation by book a table during coffee hour.*
  - **[Tell Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder](#)** to stop making Flint residents pay for poisoned water!
  - **[Tell the Minister of Environment in British Columbia](#)** to recognize water as a human right in legislation.
  - **[Tell Canadian Members of Parliament](#) and [U.S. elected officials](#)** to protect the environment and the drinking water of citizens by banning fracking.
  - **[Urge the Army Corps of Engineers](#) to stop the construction of the [Dakota Access Pipeline](#),** which, if broken, would pollute water and put the health of local communities at risk.
- **Films for screening:** *Host a film screening and discussion of any of the following documentaries on clean water and sanitation in the U.S. and Canada at your congregation.*
  - **[Not Safe to Drink](#):** A radio documentary detailing the history of the Flint Water Crisis and the impact it has had on the lives of Flint residents.

- [\*\*The Water Front\*\*](#): A documentary on the water crisis in Highland Park, Detroit, resulting from privatization of their water system, and community members' efforts to address it. Use this [film screening guide](#) to help plan your event.
- [\*\*Liquid Assets: The Big Business of Water\*\*](#) – A CNBC production on the global water crisis and the economic strategies different nations have taken to manage local water scarcity.
- **Book club reads:** *Consider forming a book club with a few members of your congregation to read and discuss any of the following books on clean water and sanitation in the U.S. and Canada.*
  - [\*\*Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis\*\*](#) – Cynthia Barnett explores the causes of the water crisis in the U.S., the culture of indulgence beneath its unparalleled water consumption levels, and a new water ethic that is necessary for change.
  - [\*\*Slick Water: Fracking and One Insider's Stand against the World's Most Powerful Industry\*\*](#) – Investigative journalist Andrew Nikiforuk tells the story of Jessica Ernst, a woman who fought back against the secret fracking of Encana and the water pollution it caused in her community.
  - [\*\*The End of Abundance: Economic Solutions to Water Scarcity\*\*](#) – David Zetland's take on water scarcity and the economic ideas and tools necessary to address it.
- **NGOs working toward the cause:** *Hold a fundraiser or collection plate for any of the following NGOs working to increase access to clean water and sanitation in the U.S. and Canada.*
  - [\*\*Flint Child Health and Development Fund\*\*](#): A community fund located in Flint, Michigan, that aims to ensure proper health and education of local children in the midst of a water crisis.
  - [\*\*Metro Community Development Flint Water Fund\*\*](#): A community fund located in Flint, Michigan, that aims to provide water bill assistance, residential water filters, and water to community residents facing the worst of the current water crisis.
  - [\*\*Food and Water Watch\*\*](#): An NGO working to ban fracking and the corporate control of food and water in the U.S. through advocacy work, research and policy analysis, and community mobilization efforts.

## Take action internationally:

- **Petitions:** *Sign the following petitions advocating for universal clean water and sanitation across the globe. Collect signatures at your congregation by book a table during coffee hour.*
  - [\*\*Tell Nestle's Peter Brabeck\*\*](#) that water is a human right, and not a source of profit.
  - **Share [these social media updates](#) to bring attention to water scarcity and poor sanitation worldwide.** Use [End Water Poverty's Digital Campaigning Guide](#) to help get you started.
  - **[Tweet](#) to bring attention to the "[Poo Taboo](#)" and the need for education and destigmatized dialogue about open defecation across the world.**
- **Films for screening:** *Host a film screening and discussion of any of the following documentaries on clean water and sanitation across the world at your congregation.*
  - [\*\*Bottled Life\*\*](#): A documentary investigating Nestle, its business strategy, and the impact of its [human rights violations](#).
  - **[Kala Fleming's Ted Talk](#)** on water scarcity and the role of digital aquifers in reducing it.
  - [\*\*FLOW\*\*](#): A documentary investigating the privatization of water worldwide.
  - [\*\*Tapped\*\*](#): A documentary on the role of the bottled water industry in pollution and health.

- [Thirst](#): A PBS documentary on the privatization of water and its impact on communities in Bolivia, Columbia, and the United States. Use [this](#) film-screening planning guide and discussion questions to help facilitate this event.
- **Book club reads:** *Consider forming a book club with a few members of your congregation to read and discuss any of the following books on clean water and sanitation across the world.*
  - [Water: The Looming Crisis in India](#) – Binayak Ray’s analysis of the issues prevalent in developing national freshwater management policies in India and the solutions necessary to avoid conflict in addressing water scarcity on a national level.
  - [Running Out of Water: The Looming Crisis and Solutions to Conserve Our Most Precious Resource](#) – Peter Rogers and Susan Leal explore the cause of the global water crisis and provide a framework for addressing it, from grassroots community action to infrastructural improvements in water technology.
  - [Squatting with Dignity: Lessons from India](#) – Kumar Alok tells the story of the development of the rural sanitation movement in India, and the successes and challenges faced in building an expanding rural sanitation network.
- **NGOs working toward the cause:** *Hold a fundraiser or collection plate for any of the following NGOs working to increase access to clean water and sanitation across the world.*
  - [WaterAid](#): An NGO that works with local communities across the globe, using a variety of [technologies](#) to provide clean water and sanitation.
  - [Water.org](#): An NGO that partners with local communities in developing countries to provide resources to solve water scarcity, including a [watercredit](#) microloan program.
  - [UNICEF Tap Project](#): A UNICEF program that works in communities and schools across the world to provide safe water, sanitation facilities, and to promote safe hygiene practices.

### **Further resources on goal 6 and water and sanitation:**

- [Goal 6 targets and related publications](#) on clean water and sanitation.
- [UN facts and figures](#) on Goal 6 and the state of clean water and sanitation worldwide.
- [Global Goals images](#) relating to Goal 6: pass these around at your congregation to raise awareness of the sixth goal!
- [Infographics](#) on the global water crisis from water.org
- [Facts on the future](#) of water scarcity from siwi.org.