



## Uniting For A Sustainable Future | Post 2015 Public Consultation | Nov 15, 2014

Discussion Group Reporting Form

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

Number of Participants: 17

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<p>Why should this goal be included in the Sustainable Development Goals?</p>	<p>Issues of the environment and water are central to the conservation in San Diego. The San Diego region is essentially carved out of a desert with limited available water resources and a growing population. As the climate continues to change and we experience shortages of natural resources we will have to adapt and respond in seeking alternative sources as well as better managing of existing resources. This makes the goal of Environmental sustainability so important</p>
<p><b>Which</b> targets from the OWG* document do you think are most important and <b>why?</b></p>	<p>1. <b>6.a</b> In San Diego, we are constantly faced with the issue of water shortages but have the capacity to develop systems, such as reverse osmosis systems, to help ensure water is utilized efficiently and to the highest capacity possible. However, developing and transitional economic countries lacking necessary developmental capacity are unable to acquire the necessary skills and infrastructure to combat their developmental problems. This is why we believe it is extremely important that there is <b>international cooperation</b> to support developing countries in water and sanitation related activities and programs.</p> <p>2. <b>6.1</b> We believe that due to the necessity of water for viability, no person should be denied <b>access to safe and affordable drinking water</b>. It is essential that in times of drought, water remain affordable and accessible to society. There could be a potential creation of bond initiatives in the state to protect waterways. In California, we are currently experiencing a drought, yet there are private companies bottling California water, which is already scarce and selling it to other states. Additionally, there are states such as Detroit, where if a person cannot afford their water bill then access to water is completely shut off.</p> <p>3. <b>6.b</b> We believe that this goal is important because in order to ensure <b>availability and sustainable management of water</b> for all, we need to improve water quality by taking proactive measures. In order to achieve this goal, there needs to be awareness at the community level. This awareness can be created through educational outreach programs and the use of digital and social media. It is important to educate school age children in regards to water conservation it is more likely the idea will be instilled, due to their impressionable age. Tax Incentives need to be given to encourage communities and private sectors to use or develop more water efficient systems. Advocacy groups in the local communities could make fines for excess water use egregious, thus serving as a deterrent.</p>



	<p>4. <b>6.6</b> The <b>restoration of water-related ecosystems</b> is an essential component to ensuring that the livelihoods of people depending on these degraded systems are sustained. Ecological restoration in areas of environmental degradation can help reverse global biodiversity losses. We feel this is of significance because biodiversity has an intrinsic value, we as humans have an obligation towards other living things and future generations to preserve the environment.</p> <p>5. <b>6.3</b> The objective to improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping chemicals etc. was considered of importance due to it being interrelated to all of the aforementioned goals. Without this goal, the other goals cannot be achieved. This goal is a significant component of 6.6. Without this goal being achieved, we are unable to achieve the ultimate goal of “ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”</p>
<p><b>How</b> do you think the OWG targets should be <b>applied to United States</b> policy making and legislation?</p> <p><b>What</b> needs to be <b>done</b> to <b>integrate</b> goals into <b>national policy</b>?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An increase in power vested to the EPA.</li> <li>2. Tax credits and funding in support of the development of new systems and innovations.</li> <li>3. Nationwide PSA’s conveying the importance of water management and the best practices for conservation.</li> <li>4. Create a “new deal era” system for public works and the expansion of systems such as the Americorps and the WPA. This not only achieves the goals set forth above, but also provides an increase in the number of available jobs, resulting in an increase in the level of public support for creating a sustainable management of water system.</li> </ol>
<p><b>How</b> do you think the OWG targets should be <b>applied to your state/city</b> policy making and legislation?</p> <p><b>What</b> needs to be <b>done</b> to <b>integrate</b> goals into state and local policy?</p>	<p><b>City Level:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cities need to capitalize on local projects and convert them into community programs, similar to the C Laboratory in Los Angeles.</li> <li>2. At a countywide level, set fixed levels to curve water supplies for water companies.</li> </ol> <p><b>State Level:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To effectuate the reduction of pollutants in waterways, mandate the complete ban of plastic bags.</li> <li>2. Provide incentives targeting the middle and upper class, similar to a cash for clunkers program.</li> <li>3. Implement a penalty system for excessive use of water.</li> <li>4. Implement a CAP system on water usage for businesses.</li> </ol> <p><b>Applicable at the State/Regional Level</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Utilization of ground water.</li> <li>2. Provide tax credits to the agricultural industry if they agree to change their crops to California friendly crops. Water intensive crops need to be grown in states that do not have water shortage problems.</li> </ol>



<p>What is the group's <b>recommendation for action</b> to <b>mobilize local and national support</b> for the SDGs** and this goal?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We believe that the first step in mobilizing local and national support is to educate children at the primary and secondary school levels as to the importance of water conservation. There can the creation of a nationwide program, similar to D.A.R.E., which can educate the children on the importance of goal 6.</li> <li>2. Mandate that a portion of the money spent on advertisements be used to advertise local concerns.</li> <li>3. Goal 6 is a compelling state interest and schools should be required to educate the students on its importance.</li> <li>4. To increase national support, a campaign similar to that of Smokey the Bear, but for water conservation can be launched.</li> <li>5. Utilize social media to create a shock factor that is relatable to the targeted demographic. An example would be to showing a California wildfire, which is a constant occurrence, and a fire-fighters inability to put it out due to a shortage of water. Creating a relatable scenario allows the message to resonate.</li> <li>6. Educate Public on high water usage for production of clothes and packing materials etc. (in addition to agricultural use) to increase conscientious consumer behavior</li> </ol>
<p>What will be the <b>obstacles</b> to making progress on this goal <b>at the global, national and local levels?</b></p>	<p><b>Global:</b> The ability of countries to cooperate and effectively work together; multinational corporations taking over resources; unsustainable companies; tackling conservationist groups; corrupt governments; cultures that are relatively new to social media; capitalism; lack of financial resources to fund development. This includes to acknowledge and minimize human greet and harmful behavior in exploitation of precious resources for personal enrichment to benefit “bottom line” meaning profit margin (corporations and individual behavior alike).</p> <p><b>National:</b> Farming Lobbies; Congress; sates non-uniformity in the lack of certain resources; lack of financial resources; lack of effective innovations or developmental systems; lack of public support.</p> <p><b>State/Local:</b> Farming Lobbies; lifestyles; agriculture production; funding.</p>
<p>Which <b>stakeholders and coalitions</b> will be important to engage in order to make progress on this goal and its targets?</p>	<p><b>Global:</b> WHO, the CDC, NATO, Bill Gates Foundation, Billionaires influential in government, ambassadors, human rights groups, advocacy groups, and social media, the UN, the EU and civil society.</p> <p><b>National:</b> The President, Congress, the House of Representatives and civil society.</p> <p><b>State/Local:</b> Teachers, Non-Profits, religious organizations, Fraternal Social Organizations, Ted Talks- targeting the youth, indigenous organizations; water management groups and civil society.</p>

# GOAL 6. ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

## Goal 6 Proposed Targets<sup>i</sup>:

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 increasing recycling and safe reuse by x% 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 for improving water and sanitation management



## MDG Progress on Water Management<sup>ii</sup>:

*Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation*

- The world has met the target of halving the proportion of people without access to improved sources of water, five years ahead of schedule.
- Between 1990 and 2012, 2.3 billion people gained access to improved drinking water sources.

- Over a quarter of the world's population has gained access to improved sanitation since 1990, yet one billion people still resort to open defecation.

## GOAL 6. ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

- The vast majority – 82 per cent – of people practicing open defecation now live in middle-income, populous countries.
- In 2012, 748 million people remained without access to an improved source of drinking water.
- Despite progress, 2.5 billion in developing countries still lack access to improved sanitation facilities.

*Target 7.D: Achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers*

- The target was met well in advance of the 2020 deadline. More than 200 million of these people gained access to improved water sources, improved sanitation facilities, or durable or less crowded housing, thereby exceeding the MDG target
- 863 million people are estimated to be living in slums in 2012 compared to 650 million in 1990 and 760 million in 2000

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<sup>i</sup> United Nations Open Working Group. *Outcome Document – Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. July 2014.*

<sup>ii</sup> United Nations. MDG Momentum. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/mdgmomentum.shtml>