



Water for Energy - Energy for Water

A summary overview of the online consultation on Water for Food revealed that:

Framing paper key points:

- The general awareness of the central role of water resources in energy production needs to be strengthened.
- Water must be recognized in global and regional, and local energy development efforts.
- All water-and energy developments should be assessed from a regional, preferably basin perspective.
- There is a need to develop standardized, functional and generally accepted accounting systems - and tools to create understanding of water's role in energy production.
- The “actual value” of water used for energy production must be further explored and established, including both the cost for transportation and treatment as well as the alternative value/price of the water resources .
- Incentives to promote energy- and water efficiency should be sought throughout respective production chains and on both sides of the supply and demand spectrum.
- Environmental impacts, especially on aquatic environments must be evaluated in all energy production and distribution.
- Approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation to must be coherent and complimentary.

Main consultation topics:

- Hydropower – a key component in energy systems with more renewable primary energy sources but must be well planned and implemented to not create detrimental side-effects, especially with regards to social and environmental aspects.
- Planning – coordination between water and energy actors need to be strengthened. Tools for sharing of data and disclosure of water and energy usage should be developed.
- Pricing of water for energy – water use by the energy sector is growing quickly. Managing additional demand and increasing efficiency may require development of pricing mechanisms.

Key messages

Water and energy are in themselves important thematic priorities on the global agenda. However, their intimate interdependence is not sufficiently known and reflected in global policy. The management of water and energy must be much more closely coordinated to allow for a sustainable development towards a world we want.

Key issues for follow-up

For a broad water goal; focus on water as a productive resource and enabler of growth and development.
For an energy goal: Highlight and advocate the need for good water management for energy security.