



Week 1: Water for Energy, Energy for Water

FRAMING PAPER

- Freshwater demand risks outstripping sustainable supply by 40% by the year 2030
- The intricate relationship between water and energy poses both challenges and opportunities.
- Water and energy concerns must be central aspects at the highest level of all public and private policy making and development plans.

Global demand for freshwater is mounting. By 2030, in a business as usual scenario, humanity's demand for water could outstrip sustainable supply by as much as 40 per cent. Currently, water withdrawals for agriculture stands for the main share of global water extraction, but in growing regions of the world the energy sector is the largest user of water. Globally, energy consumption is projected to increase by almost 50 % over the next 20 years. Water is an essential resource in almost all types of energy production. At the same time vast and growing amounts of energy is used to operate and maintain water distribution and treatment systems.

The intricate relationship between water and energy poses both challenges and opportunities. Initiatives within either of these areas, that are fundamental for global well-being and development, will inevitably have effects on the other.

The global recognition of the importance and urgency of wise management of water and energy is rising in both private and public sectors. Water and energy concerns must be central aspects at the highest level of all public and private policy making and development plans. The effects on water resources by all energy initiatives must be clearly projected, as well as the energy consequences of improving water services in agriculture, industry and households.



