



Google Water Stewardship  
Accelerating positive change  
at Google, and beyond



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## Earth View challenge, Street View solutions

In February 1990, just eight years before Google's founding, the [Voyager 1 space probe](#) turned its camera back to our home planet on its way to interstellar space. It captured an indelible view of Earth, a "pale blue dot," as scientist Carl Sagan would remark, "less than a pixel," suspended in space.

The photo reminded the world that we must preserve and cherish our planet and all those on it. It was also a reminder that water is one of the defining characteristics of Earth itself, visible even from the far reaches of our solar system. Water makes up 71% of the Earth's surface, [yet less than a hundredth of a percent](#) of the Earth's water is readily accessible freshwater, in places like lakes and rivers, to support life's needs.

Today, this critical shared resource, and all who rely on it, are at risk. According to the UN, "demand for water is set to [increase 55% by 2050](#)" and "the planet will face a 40% shortfall in water supply by 2030 unless the international community 'dramatically' improves water supply management." Yet the water challenges we face are not an issue of tomorrow. [Climate change is magnifying water stress](#), causing destabilizing droughts and unpredictable flooding today.

Google understands these "Earth View" water challenges. Yet we also know that water stress—the inability to meet water demand due to scarcity, reduced quality, disrupted environmental flows, or lack of accessibility—is a "Street View" issue felt locally by communities and billions of people every single day. This global challenge requires local solutions.

At Google, we're committed to being responsible stewards of every resource we use and every community we operate in. Our commitment to being good stewards of water is no different.



## A bold new ambition to reduce, replenish, and restore

We are proud of the progress we've made to advance water stewardship to date. But as we look at the data, we see the growing scale and urgency of the world's water challenges. Big challenges require bold solutions.

**That's why Google is committing to replenish more water than we consume by 2030 and supporting water security and ecosystems in the communities where we operate.**

We will be water positive across all our global operations by the end of the decade. This means **Google will replenish 120% of the water we consume, on average, across our offices and data centers and help restore and improve the quality of water and health of ecosystems in the communities where we operate.** We'll focus our efforts in water scarce regions to support those who need it most.

Since stewardship requires collective action at the "Street View," local needs will be a core part of our decision-making. Our global water strategy evaluates local water stress and responds with locally relevant measures and replenishment targets.

To achieve our ambition we are focusing on three key areas of activity: leading at Google, supporting our community partners, and enabling others through Google's technology:

Advance Responsible Water Use at Google	Benefit Watersheds and Communities	Support Water Security with Technology
Enhance our stewardship of water resources across Google office campuses and data centers.	Collaborate to replenish our water use and improve watershed health while supporting ecosystems and water-stressed communities.	Share technology and tools that enable everyone to predict, prevent, and recover from water stress.



## Google + Water: Our journey to date

Why is water important to Google? We utilize water to help cool our data centers and in our offices around the world. Water is also used in our value chain, in the manufacturing of Made by Google hardware products and data center equipment.

We are proud of our legacy of responsible water stewardship. In 2018, we set out to enhance and codify our approach to responsible water use by establishing a set of [water principles](#). These principles help Google maximize our water efficiency through water [circularity practices](#), implementing practices, processes, and systems that reduce water waste and maximize internal reuse of water.

As a global technology company, we know we have a unique role to play when it comes to preserving and protecting water. We understand that our shared global water challenge is—in part—a data problem. Through partnerships, tools, and technology, we've worked to make water visible and valued—creating platforms and raising awareness to help everyone and advance water stewardship.

We will continue our stewardship journey, supporting water resilience and abundance to ensure water security—essential for people, as well as our business.

In this paper you'll learn about our water stewardship work to date and our ambitions for the future—both at Google and beyond.



## Water stewardship at Google

We are committed to responsibly managing water at Google facilities around the world, from our offices to our data centers. Effective water stewardship requires highly tailored approaches and practices informed by regional context. That's why we always look for ways to bring our expertise to bear, unlocking the power of data to understand local water stress and develop innovative solutions. This enables us to responsibly manage water resources across our global operations with local needs and facility requirements in mind.

### What we've achieved so far

Our water stewardship across global operations to date has focused primarily on implementing water efficiency measures—using less water whenever possible. We've also implemented water reuse practices, recycling potable water and treating it to safely meet the water quality needed for non-potable reuse—such as irrigation or toilet flushing. In some cases, we use alternative water supplies from external sources such as treated municipal wastewater, harvested rainwater, or non-potable canal water.

In 2018, we set out to reduce our potable water use intensity (measured by gallons of water used per person, per year) at our San Francisco Bay Area headquarters. Our goal was to reduce our water intensity by 5% by 2019, compared with a 2017 baseline. In 2019, we surpassed this goal, achieving a 6.5% reduction—equivalent to more than 85 million liters (22 million gallons) of potable water avoided (or nearly nine olympic-sized swimming pools). We continue to explore opportunities to incorporate circular economy principles throughout our operations and to reduce the amount of water we use.

### Google offices: Living laboratories of water stewardship

Our offices provide the perfect environment to test and refine new and innovative approaches to responsible water management. We've initiated water efficiency and reduction measures across our global office facilities by adopting standards aligned with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.



This includes incorporating water efficient fixtures, like faucets, toilets, and irrigation systems into our design requirements for new construction and replacing old fixtures with new, highly efficient ones in any space we move into. We're also using recycled water where it's available and extending municipal recycled water lines to serve more of our facilities.

Googlers are constantly finding creative new ways to increase water efficiency across our global offices. Just one example, from our café team, is the practice of thawing frozen food items well before they're needed, rather than the common practice of thawing food under running water. Our method reduces water use in the preparation of hundreds of thousands of meals per day in Google cafés and micro kitchens across 55 countries.

We also looked at the exterior environment of our office campus in the San Francisco Bay Area, finding smarter, more efficient ways to use water. Together with ecologists, landscape architects, and other experts, we developed an [ecological design strategy and habitat guidelines](#) to enhance the resiliency of the landscapes and improve watershed health. This includes implementing drip irrigation and weather-based control systems and fostering diverse landscape that can withstand the stresses of climate change. It also includes restoring native ecosystems with drought tolerant plants and wildlife habitats lost to office parks over decades of real estate development. We've also partnered with local environmental organizations to make our [habitat design guidelines](#) available as a public resource.

In 2020, we are [proud to have achieved](#) the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) International Standard at our Mountain View, Los Angeles, and Dublin, Ireland office campuses. We were the first major tech company to achieve this certification for office operations. Reaching this certification has enabled Google to better understand our water use and impact within the context of the watersheds where we operate. It has also facilitated our ability to work collaboratively in a local context. Our key partners, and the



tools we implemented to achieve this certification, included LimnoTech, World Resources Institute's (WRI) [Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas](#), and WWF's [Water Risk Filter](#). We will continue to leverage this work to accelerate water stewardship solutions for more of our offices around the globe.

### Stewardship Spotlight: Google Bay View campus development

Slated to open in 2022, our Bay View office campus in Mountain View, California is a 1.1 million sq. ft. commercial office development located in a historically water-stressed region.

With our ambition to be a positive member of the local community, Google is pursuing the [Living Building Challenge](#) (LBC) [Water Petal Certification](#). When achieved, it will be the largest Living Building Challenge certified project in the world. Through the LBC, Google is striving to meet all of the building's non-potable water needs through on-site sources, respecting and protecting the hydrology of the local environment. This goal, particularly within the building's local context at the edge of San Francisco Bay, sets a precedent for holistic and innovative water management, one that takes into account unique, local needs.

One major innovation we've incorporated on-site are energy piles, which were designed to efficiently heat and cool our facilities. This ground-source heat pump technology nearly eliminates the need to run cooling towers, resulting in a 60% annual reduction in energy used for cooling. They also directly reduce our water demand for cooling by 90%—equivalent to avoiding 19 million liters (five million gallons) of water per year.

New water capture and recovery systems on-site will collect rainwater, directing it into ponds that create thriving habitats for native plants and animal species—and a tranquil place for Googlers and visitors to enjoy. Water from these ponds, as well as wastewater from the buildings, will eventually flow into an on-site water treatment plant where water is recycled back into the office campus to meet non-potable water needs, such as landscape irrigation, toilet flushing, and fulfilling any remaining cooling tower needs.

We're pleased to report that our system will be water positive, producing more non-potable water than we use. In the future, we'll seek to export this excess water beyond our office campus to offset the potable water use of other local water users. Systems like these will help build a more water-resilient future for the San Francisco Bay Area, and beyond.





### **Google data centers: Accelerating efficiency and localized approaches**

Water is a critical resource used to cool equipment at many of our data centers around the world. Water cooling is an energy-efficient, sustainable way to remove heat, minimizing the need to use more energy-intensive methods such as chillers or air conditioning. At Google, we work hard to be responsible members of the communities where we operate. We constantly look for more efficient ways to use water—using data to understand local hydrology and implement site specific cooling solutions.

We've reduced water-use intensity by recirculating water within the same data center, cooling our systems multiple times with the same water to get more out of every drop we use. This practice saves up to 50% of water when compared with “once-through” cooling systems.

Other environmentally-friendly solutions we've implemented to cool our data centers around the world, include:

- Our data center in Eemshaven, Netherlands, uses [industrial water](#) to cool our servers, utilizing a new industrial water pipeline funded by Google.
- Our data center in Hamina, Finland, is cooled by [sea water](#). To minimize environmental impact we cool the water close to its original temperature before returning it to the sea.
- Our data center in St. Ghislain, Belgium, uses [raw water](#) from a nearby industrial canal for cooling.
- Our data center in Douglas County, Georgia, uses [reclaimed wastewater](#) for cooling. Google financed the construction of a sidestream treatment plant, treating about 30% of the wastewater from the Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority that gets reused.



- Our data centers in Storey County, Nevada and [Dublin, Ireland](#) eliminate the need for water in our cooling systems altogether, employing air cooled technology. At our Storey County data center, 100% of our electricity is being contracted to use carbon free energy, enabling any incremental electricity we use for cooling to be carbon-neutral.

## **Our ambition ahead**

We are fully committed to advancing and enhancing our water management practices at Google's offices and data centers around the world. As our business grows, we will continue to collaborate, test, and share our learnings on responsible water use, taking our work to the next level and challenging ourselves to do more.

We are also accelerating circular and water recycling practices across our offices and data centers. The nature and needs of our operations vary significantly, so we will tailor our water stewardship approaches based on facility type, location, and local water context and risk.

### **Advancing responsible water use at Google offices**

We will continue to drive water efficiency and reuse in our office operations, including:

- Engaging Google site teams, including facility, environmental health and safety, and food teams, to catalyze and advance water stewardship practices.
- Expanding urban ecology on Google offices and in local communities nearby, supporting the health of local watersheds.
- Enhancing water stewardship education for our employees, providing tools and resources to incentivize behavior change at work and at home.
- Growing and acting beyond the San Francisco Bay area, expanding our work and developing localized innovative solutions where we operate around the planet.



### **Optimizing water use and innovation at Google data centers**

In addition to the work we do already, we are committing to responsibly manage, source, and design water solutions for our existing and new data centers based on robust local-level watershed assessments. We will also set data-driven operational goals that focus on increasing circularity and reducing withdrawal intensity of freshwater at data centers. Where possible, we will:

- Identify further opportunities for recycled use of non-potable water on-site, seeking alternative supplies to freshwater such as reclaimed wastewater from third parties, or brackish water from inland or coastal sources.
- Optimize internal water recycling and reuse where possible on-site.

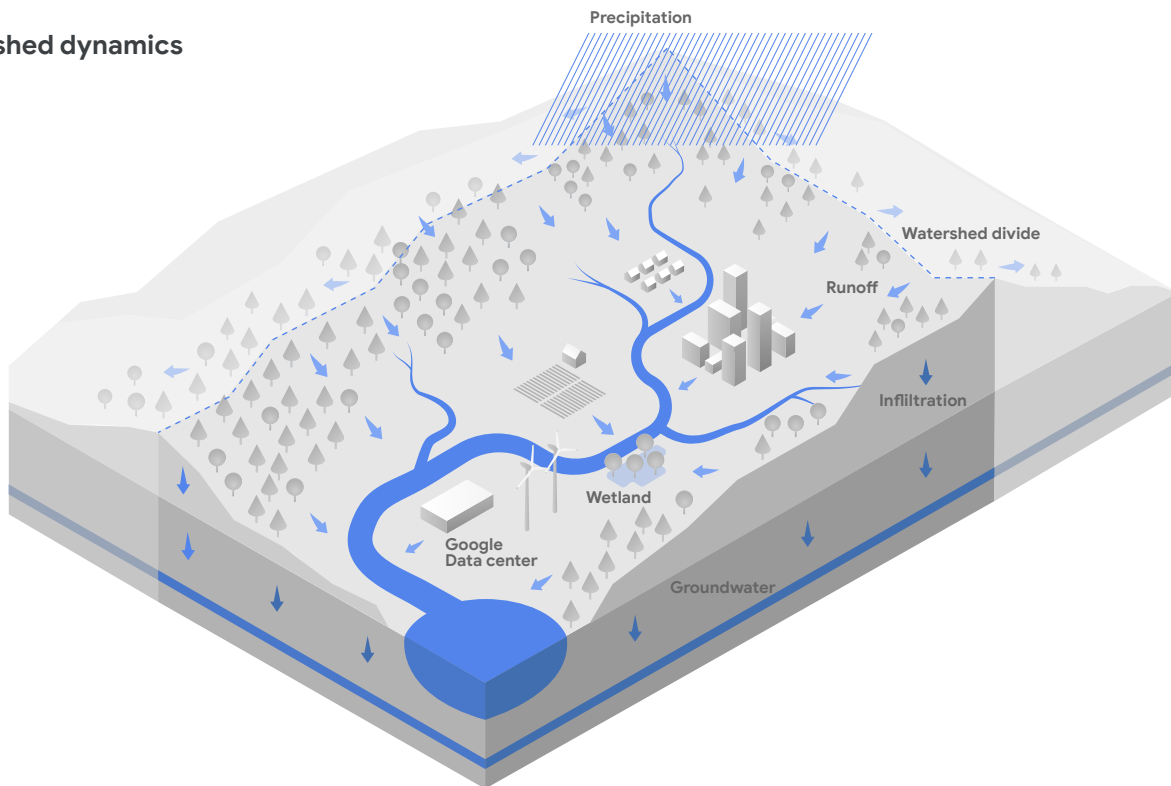
## Collaborating to positively benefit watersheds and communities

Watersheds sustain life. We all live in, and are citizens of a watershed. That’s why healthy, well-balanced watersheds matter—because the health of watersheds directly affects the health and wellbeing of those who live in them.

A watershed is the land area that drains into a stream, lake, or river. Smaller watersheds are interconnected with larger watersheds—as streams flow into lakes and rivers, and rivers flow into the ocean (Figure 1). This is why collaboration is key when it comes to water stewardship: each of us is responsible for our water use at the “Street View,” which in turn affects the shared “Earth View” system.

FIG. 1

### Watershed dynamics





### Healthy watershed spotlight: Google Charleston Retention Basin project in California

With our [Charleston Retention Basin project](#), we worked beyond our Mountain View office campus to support the surrounding ecosystem. Together with our partners, we removed 134 parking spaces, creating a natural oasis and a restored floodplain. The basin includes expanded willow thickets, which support wetland habitats that sustain birds even during hot summers, along with wildflowers, cottonwood forests, and oak trees. Phase 1 of the Charleston Retention Basin was completed in 2017, adding roughly 5.9 acres of wetland habitat and 1,800 native trees.

This project is improving flood control and stormwater management, providing enhanced habitat for local wildlife and enriching natural experiences for local visitors and Googlers.

The health of a watershed is measured by a number of factors, including water quality, soil and lake health, as well as streamflow pattern. Streamflow is the rate at which water is carried by rivers and streams, influencing the supply of drinking water, crop irrigation, and the health of habitats for plants and animals. Another measure of watershed health is whether the communities that live within it have access to sufficient quantities of clean water to meet their needs.

Today many watersheds and the communities that rely on them are degrading in health, contributing to increasing water stress and strain. At Google, we're doing our part to collaborate with others to replenish the water we consume, all while addressing other water challenges to improve watershed health and support ecosystems and communities.

### What we've achieved so far

We've identified shared challenges, partnered with critical local stakeholders and suppliers, and developed ongoing initiatives together with the communities where we operate. Our local water stewardship initiatives are rooted in collaboration and industry best practice, addressing shared water challenges and tracking measurable improvements in the replenishment and health of watersheds.

Our watershed projects, so far, have included designing ecologically resilient landscapes and water conservation efforts that improve water security for communities.

### Supporting Suppliers and Communities: Partnering to measure and manage

[Today, 25% of the global population](#) lives in countries facing extremely high water stress. As water stress increases globally, Google is committed to working with our suppliers to ensure they measure, disclose, and reduce water use in their facilities and communities where they operate.



### Replenishment spotlight: Colorado River Indian Tribes conservation project

In 2021, Google joined one of the [largest multisector drought response efforts](#) ever formed. This coalition of businesses, non-profits, government, and Native American tribes contributed a combined \$38 million to a 3-year water conservation program in Arizona.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes project is a replenishment initiative that conserves water for Lake Mead through reduced withdrawals. The Arizona System Conservation Fund was set up by the Arizona Department of Water Resources to aggregate project funding and lease water for conservation rather than for consumptive irrigation. This partnership is projected to contribute 49 billion gallons to Lake Mead over three years, adding an approximately two-foot increase in depth to stabilize water levels in the lake—helping ensure long-term water security in a drought-prone region.

We conducted a supply chain water use analysis and a supplier risk assessment using WRI's Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas, WWF's Water Risk Filter, and [WULCA AWARE](#) to identify and prioritize our engagement with suppliers. The key risks identified included baseline water stress, flood risk, access to safe drinking water, and level of sanitation and hygiene services. This assessment enabled us to identify priority locations for supplier engagement in Central America, Asia, and the United States.

Google's [Supplier Code of Conduct](#) includes requirements that enable us to ensure those we partner with are responsible environmental stewards “reduce[ing] consumption of resources, including raw materials, energy, and water.” To safeguard the health of local waterways, we stipulate suppliers “[treat water] as required prior to discharge or disposal of all wastewater.” To support the health and wellbeing of those in the communities we operate in, suppliers must “provide workers with ready access to clean toilet facilities, [and] potable water.” We conduct regular supplier audits to monitor adherence to our code of conduct. Additionally, we have engaged our suppliers through the CDP Supply Chain Water Security questionnaire, disclosing their water management efforts.

## Our ambition ahead

In 2020, we began building our water stewardship project portfolio which supports our new water positive goal. This portfolio of projects and partnerships will enable Google to replenish every drop we consume in our operations. But we won't stop there. Google will replenish 120% of the water we consume across our offices and data centers around the globe.

This means, on a global average basis, we will replenish 20% more water than we consume in regions where Google office campuses and data centers are located. The additional volume of water we replenish at each location will vary depending on the local conditions, but we will target water scarce regions in order to ensure we are positively impacting the areas that need it most.



We will determine the additional volume to replenish by calculating the water scarcity gap ratio. We will then multiply this by our absolute water consumption at each location, and sum those values across all of Google's offices and data centers.

The water scarcity gap ratio is calculated by quantifying the difference between the current water scarcity ratio (demand/supply) and a desired water scarcity ratio—which we define as using less than 40% of available water supply in the given area.

**We're proud to say that our goal also ensures water positivity, even as we grow—accounting for the projected growth of Google's offices and data centers around the world.**

Moving forward, we will identify shared water challenges and work with stakeholders, including public sector water authorities, municipalities, water experts, and NGOs to proactively address short and long-term local water challenges and address stakeholder concerns.

Supporting supplier communities is a priority for Google and we will develop supplier engagement projects that address local water quality and scarcity, as well as long-term community resilience.

#### **Investments to accelerate watershed health and water security**

Moving forward, Google will make significant investments in both watershed replenishment and watershed health projects to improve water security and access for communities where we operate around the world.

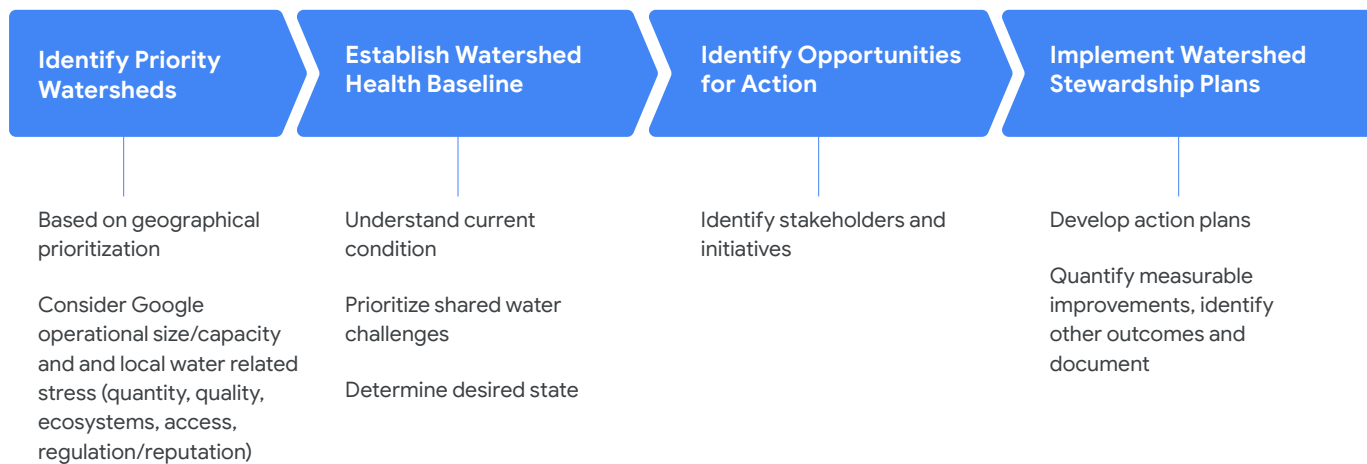
Watershed replenishment involves investing in water stewardship projects off-site from Google properties. These projects protect, restore, treat, or save a quantity of water in the watershed. This means helping support or modify hydrology to benefit the watershed and reduce water stress in the area. Many replenishment projects are nature-based solutions and others involve infrastructure improvements. Examples of these projects include wetland restoration, reforestation, rainwater harvesting, and stormwater management.

Watershed health projects address local water challenges—helping support good water quality, access to clean drinking water, sanitation, and protection of ecosystems (Figure 2). These projects may have water replenishment benefits, but not always. Examples of watershed health projects include improving fish passage through barrier removal, riparian river restoration, providing potable water to meet community needs, and agricultural best management practices.

**Google will implement watershed replenishment projects in regions with high water scarcity, ensuring positive change where it’s needed most.** We will consider implementing watershed health projects in any place where we operate.

FIG. 2

**Watershed health project process**







We will also track our progress and evaluate the results of our watershed replenishment and watershed health projects to date using existing peer-reviewed guidelines including the [Volumetric Benefit Accounting Guide](#) and [Benefit Accounting of Nature-Based Solutions for Watersheds](#) in order to inform and optimize future projects—enabling us to drive even greater positive impact for communities where we operate today and tomorrow.

**Advancing water stewardship with our suppliers**

We will continue to build supplier engagement programs by partnering with our supplier communities on water stewardship initiatives. We will continue to drive our Supplier Code of Conduct adherence to ensure and enable responsible water stewardship. Throughout our supply chain, we will support our suppliers to ensure they work to reduce their consumption of water, and confirm responsible management of their wastewater and stormwater.



## Advancing water security with Google technology

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful. When it comes to addressing shared water challenges, technology can be a useful tool to bring visibility to these challenges—both at a “Street View” and “Earth View”—to enable smarter, more informed decision-making. We are building tools to make water data and technology universally accessible, enabling effective water stewardship and improving the resilience of watersheds and ecosystems.

### What we've achieved so far

#### Supporting institutions

Google is proud of our history supporting and collaborating with organizations, including world-class research institutions, to develop tools and platforms that enable action, support water stewardship, and foster watershed health.

Through work led by our [Google Earth Outreach](#) team using [Google Earth Engine](#), our planetary-scale satellite and geospatial analysis platform, we are helping address a key need for informed decision-making, supporting efforts to scale models and solutions that make water resource information visible and actionable. Our work includes:

- Following the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) requested that all 193 member states provide indicator 6.6.1 data on their water ecosystems. At that time, the majority of member states were unable to report on this metric. [In order to fill this gap](#), UNEP and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) partnered with Google to develop the [Freshwater Ecosystems Explorer](#) (sdg661.app) to quantify and visualize surface water changes over the course of decades. This free,



easy-to-use geospatial platform and data product helps decision-makers access national, sub-national, and basin-level data on freshwater ecosystems.

- Climate change is altering the hydrologic cycle, creating significant changes in the availability of water throughout the world. Together with academic and government research groups, Google co-developed [OpenET](#) to help improve water management by supporting the development of evapotranspiration (ET) models. These models provide estimates of how much water is transferred from the land to the atmosphere, a crucial but difficult to measure process within the overall hydrological cycle. OpenET will make satellite-based ET data widely accessible to farmers, landowners, and water managers.
- Our [Time Lapse](#) tool is an interactive, zoomable platform, which combines 24 million satellite photos from the past 37 years into an interactive 4D experience, enabling users to easily visualize and share how our world is changing. Timelapse highlights the creation of farmland in deserts made possible through irrigation, how rivers meander and change course throughout the Amazon basin, and impacts on water basins from both environmental and human pressures.

### **Supporting individuals**

At the individual level, Google is working to provide people around the world with information and tools to manage water resources effectively and enhance water-related disaster preparedness.

- The [Google Flood Forecasting Initiative](#) has been working with governments for several years to develop systems that predict when and where flooding will occur—and keep people safe and informed. These current operational flood forecasting systems cover hundreds of millions of people across India and Bangladesh.



- Through [Google.org](#), we've supported nonprofits like [SEEDS](#) and the [The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies](#) to build local capacity for flood preparedness, early warning and response, and ensure that the benefits of powerful and accurate alerts are accessible [well beyond smartphones](#).
- Together with the California Academy of Sciences, Google developed [Your Plan, Your Planet](#), an interactive online learning tool that provides tips for how to positively impact the planet through sustainable personal actions. Users who visit the site receive tailored information on how to reduce their environmental impacts, including how to use water resources more responsibly at home. To date, the site has documented more than 300,000 individual pledges to change one or more behavior.

## Our ambition ahead

Moving forward, we will continue to share technology and tools that enable decision-makers to predict and prevent water stress—as well as use data to enable action and raise awareness around water issues and solutions.

### Funding technology-driven solutions

- Google.org is funding the development of a platform called [Global Water Watch](#) which aims to democratize information on water resources.
  - Stichting Deltares Institute, WRI, and WWF are developing this app with world-wide, high-resolution, and real-time water resources to provide indicators for balancing water equally across society and sectors as well as managing climate-change induced floods and droughts. This information will empower policymakers, conservation organizations, and communities to better manage water resources collectively.



- Google.org is supporting [BlueConduit](#), a project of Windward Fund, to develop publicly accessible tools to quantify and map hazardous lead service lines for vulnerable communities, a critical first step to replacing this unsafe infrastructure.
  - This project will engage national environmental groups and local communities to address water quality issues and integrate environmental justice principles. The open-sourced tool leverages machine learning to help non-technical users in lower resource communities identify lead service line inventory and estimate costs to help them access remediation funding.
- Through a public-private partnership, Google's Real Estate and Workplace Services (REWS) team is working with the Pacific Institute and other partners to address urban water conservation in Los Angeles, California with the Toilet Leak Detection Project.
  - Currently in its pilot phase with potential to scale, this project will focus on water demand management in low-income housing to alleviate water stress and reduce the reliance of imported water supplies in the city. Leveraging remote detection and Internet of Things technology developed by Sensor Industries, the project will identify leaks and alert property managers in real-time, helping to reduce building water use by an average of 20%.

Through Google.org, we have already awarded millions of dollars in grants to promising water-conservation solutions. We plan to continue supporting organizations that are doing critical work and that are advancing the replenishment of ecosystems and watershed health.



## Positive impact today, tomorrow, and in the decades ahead

Each and every one of us relies on clean, fresh water. This precious resource is vital for the health of communities and is essential to all life on earth. Today, the world is using water faster than it can be replenished.

We must accelerate positive change to reduce the use of this shared resource, while simultaneously replenishing and restoring watersheds to improve the health of water systems around the world. The challenge is urgent. We are already seeing the devastating and destabilizing effects of water stress and scarcity around the world today, including unprecedented droughts and disrupted ecosystems.

At Google, we build technology that helps people do more for the planet. As a global company, we are committed to being a responsible citizen and a trusted partner. We are working hard to incorporate more circularity throughout our business, uphold responsible sourcing practices that support people and planet across our value chain, and deliver on our industry-leading commitment to running our business on carbon-free energy 24/7, everywhere, by 2030.

Google will work tirelessly to achieve our new goal of replenishing more water than we consume by 2030 and supporting water security and ecosystems in the communities where we operate. We're doing this by deploying innovative solutions to responsibly source and manage water in our existing operations. We are supporting the communities in which we operate, making significant investments around the globe to replenish every drop of water, and more. We are also working with local government and community organizations, enabling others with innovative technology to measure, predict, and prevent water availability and stress.



### **A global call for collaboration**

No one company, one community, one NGO, or even one government can address water stress alone. Bold, sustained, and collaborative action to steward water is needed. The most impactful water stewardship projects come from collaboration, involving key partners, experts, community stakeholders, and suppliers to drive positive change.

We must all work together and develop innovative new partnerships, implementing integrated approaches to address shared water challenges at every level—from “Street View” to “Earth View.”

At Google, we commit to collaborating with our communities, our industry, and local and national governments. We will:

1. **Identify and distribute** our best practices for water stewardship in our operations.
2. **Gather and share accurate**, global and local-level data that we acquire from stakeholders (particularly utilities) on near-term and medium-term water availability and watershed risks, enabling better decision-making.
3. **Lead and join collective action initiatives** on water replenishment and watershed health projects globally.

We invite everyone to join us in this critical water stewardship mission. Together we can accelerate positive change today, tomorrow, and in the decades ahead.