

# The Peace Post



Dear Friends,

Water sustains life, health, and progress— yet today, our water systems are increasingly in crisis. In this edition of the Peace Post, we focus on Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and are challenged to rethink how we manage this essential resource, not just for today, but for future generations.

At the Peace Innovation Initiative, we believe responsible water stewardship is one of many pathways to lasting peace. Water scarcity fuels conflict, but sustainable solutions foster stability. From wastewater recycling in drought-prone areas to AI-driven leak detection and conservation strategies, we have the tools to transform how we manage water. What we need now is the will to implement them at scale. Through collaboration across industries, we can create resilient communities where every drop of water is protected, valued, and accessible to all.

We are the PII Cooperative for Humanity: a community of visionaries leading a global movement to accelerate positive disruption and establish active peace as a pillar of innovation worldwide. Driven by our bold commitment and values, we are building the Internet of Peace—a network where every voice for peace contributes unique insight and action. Just like the Internet of Things connects devices to create a smarter world, the Internet of Peace connects people and ideas to create a more peaceful one. Each voice shares knowledge and responds to the world’s challenges in real time. Through convergence, integration, and interoperability, we become one powerful, unified signal: one voice for peace.

Water is at the core of our shared future. Let us act now to protect it, preserve it, and ensure that every person, in every place, has the right to clean, safe, and sustainable water systems. The time for action is now. Join the network—enter our bloodstream!

In the spirit of peace and unity,

Barbara Winston, President and Founder  
Gordon Winston, Co-Founder

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## Rising Seas and Land-Based Salt Pollution Pose Dual Threats for Drinking Water - Inside Climate News

New research reveals that climate change is causing dual threats to freshwater: rising sea levels are driving saltwater inland, while land-based sources like road salt, wastewater, and fertilizers are also contributing to salinization. In 2024, global sea levels rose faster than expected, worsening saltwater intrusion into critical water sources like the Delaware River, which serves millions. Droughts and warming temperatures hinder efforts to dilute salt levels, increasing risks to drinking water, agriculture, infrastructure, and public health. Scientists urge proactive planning with a new risk management framework to help water managers identify and mitigate salinization threats as climate impacts intensify.

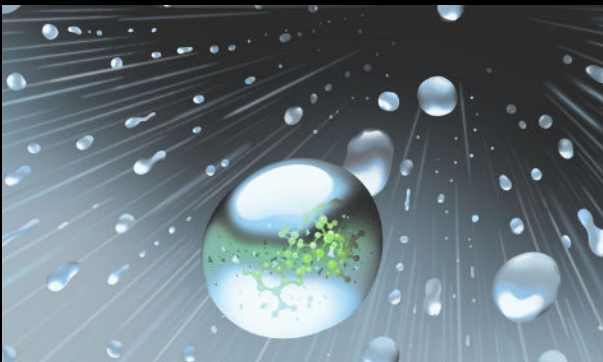
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## As the Colorado River Shrinks, Southern California Is Embracing Water Recycling

Faced with historic drought and dwindling Colorado River supplies, Southern California water agencies are investing in large-scale wastewater recycling. The \$8 billion Pure Water Southern California project aims to treat and reuse 150 million gallons of water daily—10% of local demand—offering a sustainable, climate-resilient solution. Cities like Los Angeles and Las Vegas are embracing similar strategies to reduce dependence on imported water and expand local supply. Despite public skepticism and technical challenges, officials emphasize the environmental and water security benefits. The project’s success could influence water management across the Southwest as the region adapts to a drier future.

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## We got rid of acid rain. Now something scarier is falling from the sky.

Once a major environmental threat, acid rain has largely been addressed—but today’s rain carries new dangers. Studies reveal rainfall now contains widespread pollutants like microplastics and PFAS, or “forever chemicals,” which are nearly impossible to eliminate. These contaminants, originating from roadways, oceans, and industrial products, have been detected globally—even in remote areas. They infiltrate ecosystems, drinking water sources, and even human bodies, with potential health risks including cancer and organ damage. While water treatment helps, it can’t filter everything. Scientists warn that microplastic and chemical-laden rain is an irreversible crisis, reflecting humanity’s deep environmental footprint with long-lasting consequences.

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## How Japan can use tech to improve wastewater management

Japan’s aging sewer infrastructure—much of it built during post-WWII growth—is increasingly vulnerable, with 34% expected to be over 50 years old by 2040. Budget constraints and a shrinking workforce are challenging municipal maintenance efforts. To address this, local governments are adopting technologies like satellite leak detection, AI, and drones to improve sewer inspection efficiency and worker safety. These tools reduce costs, accelerate diagnostics, and support proactive repairs. Projects like Tenchijin’s Compass system and AI-powered pipe analysis in cities like Yokohama highlight how innovation can maintain vital infrastructure, enhance environmental protection, and bolster societal resilience amid climate change and urbanization.

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