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## @Sam's: Global Issues and Environment

*March 21, 2014*

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## World Water Day March 22



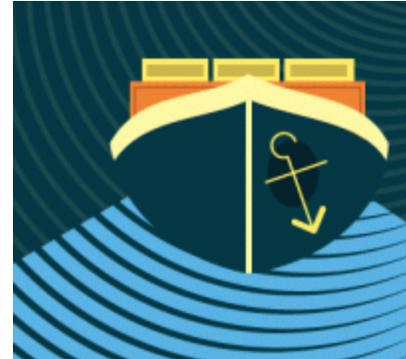
International World Water Day is held annually on March 22 to recognize the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day. In 2014, World Water Day highlights on "Water and Energy."

In 2014, the UN System – working closely with its Member States and other relevant stakeholders – is collectively bringing its attention to the water-energy nexus, particularly addressing inequities, especially for the 'bottom billion' who live in slums and impoverished rural areas and survive without access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, sufficient food and energy services. It also aims to facilitate the development of policies and crosscutting frameworks that bridge ministries and sectors, leading the way to energy security and sustainable water use in a green economy. Particular attention will be paid to identifying best practices that can make a water- and energy-efficient 'Green Industry' a reality.

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## Information Briefs on Water and Energy (The United Nations)

- [Water and Energy](#)
- [Water and Energy Efficiency](#)
- [Securing Access to Water and Energy](#)
- [Water and Energy Sustainability](#)



## Water and Energy Facts and Figures (The United Nations)

[The Facts and Figures](#) in this section are drawn from the upcoming edition of the World Water Development Report on Water and Energy.

## Online Publications

### [World Water Development Report 2014: Water and Energy](#)

UN World Water Assessment Programme. March 2014.

This fifth edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report seeks to inform decision-makers, stakeholders and practitioners about the interlinkages, potential synergies and trade-offs, and to highlight the need for appropriate responses and regulatory frameworks that account for both water and energy priorities. The Report provides a comprehensive overview of major and emerging trends from around the world, with examples of how some of the trend-related challenges have been addressed, their implications for policy-makers, and further actions that can be taken by stakeholders and the international community.

### [Ahead of World Water Day: Let's Talk about ... Energy?](#)

William Rex and Vivien Foster. The World Bank Group. March 19, 2014.

The UN dedicated World Water Day 2014 to Water and Energy to draw attention to this challenge: today, more than 1.3 billion people lack access to electricity, over 768 million people lack access to potable water and 2.8 billion live in areas of high water stress.

### [Will Water Constrain Our Energy Future?](#)

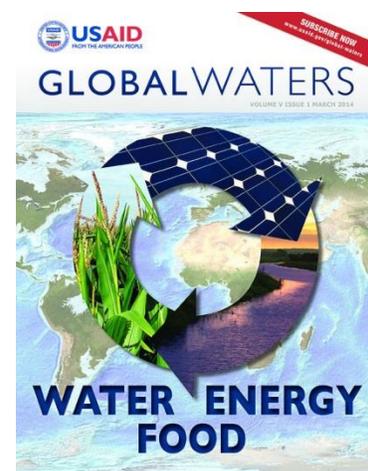
The World Bank Group. January 16, 2014.

With demand rising for both resources, water scarcity can threaten the long-term viability of energy projects and hinder development. To mitigate the risks of the challenge, the World Bank has launched Thirsty Energy, a global initiative to help countries prepare for an uncertain future now by quantifying tradeoffs and identifying synergies between water and energy resource management.

### [Global Waters: Water Energy Food](#)

USAID. March 2014.

The magazine features in-depth articles exploring solutions to the ongoing water crisis, opinion pieces by top development



professionals and first-hand accounts from stakeholders and beneficiaries. This issue of Global Waters explores some of the ways that the USAID Agency is boosting food security, health, and livelihoods by improving management of water and energy.



### [Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005: Annual Report](#)

U.S. Department of State. June 2013.

The Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act, which was signed into law by then-President Bush on December 1, 2005, makes access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of U.S. foreign assistance. It requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other U.S. government agencies, to develop and implement a strategy “to provide affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation in developing countries” within the context of sound water resources management.

### [Global Water Issues](#)

U.S. Department of States. 2011.

Global Water Issues explores the political, social and economic challenges presented by threats to Earth’s most vital natural resource. With a foreword by U.S. Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Maria Otero, Global Water Issues describes how this ecological emergency affects population centers, human health, climate, and food security.

## Video

### [Running Dry](#) and [Confronting the Water Crisis](#)

There is a stark reality in today's world, drought, water scarcity, pollution, lack of food supply are impacting international security. By the year 2020 as many as 76 million people could die from polluted water, most of them children. The water crisis is an issue which requires profound, immediate attention. These clips are from Running Dry, a documentary film by Jim Thebaut. Running Dry is the centerpiece of the [Running Dry Project](#), an educational project to raise awareness regarding the worsening global water crisis.



## Web Resources

The United Nations Water

<http://www.unwater.org>

USAID: Water and Sanitation

<http://www.usaid.gov/global-waters>

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global>

U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

<http://www.state.gov/e/oes/water/index.htm>

World Bank: Water Resource Management

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/waterresourcesmanagement>



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