



STRATEGIES TO HELP WITH WATER SCARCITY

There are many strategies that have been used over time to solve the issue of water scarcity caused by unreliable and irregular rainfall.

DESALINATION – With so little fresh water available in the world, many people are looking to salt water as a possible resource. Desalination is the process of removing the salt from seawater, which turns the water into fresh drinking water. It sounds like an easy solution! The problem with this process, however, is that it is very expensive and uses a great deal of energy. This in turn adds to the problem of global warming, and increases the evaporation rates of available fresh water.

CREATING DAMS – Dams store water for when there is less water available, so they help ensure there is a constant supply. This water can then be used for irrigation or for drinking water. Not only are dams costly to build and maintain, but they also interfere with natural drainage systems. This can lead to flooding of upstream damming areas and reduce the amount of water received downstream, destroying habitats and the livelihoods of people.

TRANSFERRING WATER – Water pipes can carry water from one place to another, transferring water from places that have plenty to areas that have water scarcity. This solution, however, is very costly, laying pipes can create soil disturbance and pipes often leak or burst which can drastically reduce the amount of water at the source, causing an even bigger water problem.

GREYWATER - Is water that we use in the shower, bath, hand-basin and laundry. It is water that is essentially washed down the drain. This water can be recycled and used again for things such as irrigation and watering crops. The problem with greywater, is that along with the water we wash down the drain, we also wash down chemicals, detergents and soaps. The chemicals in these products can then be detrimental to plants and soil quality. When using greywater, we need to be mindful to use environmental friendly products, that do not harm the environment.

WATER RESTRICTIONS – Enforcing water restrictions is a simple and effective method of improving our water usage in some areas. Restrictions, though, are often hard to enforce by councils and many businesses rely on larger water supplies to operate. Many new and existing households are installing domestic water tanks as a sustainable water solution. These are an effective solution but are costly and only effective if there is adequate rainfall in the area.



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Which of these solutions do you think is most effective and why?

Choose three strategies and list the advantages and disadvantages.

STRATEGY	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
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