

# Rethinking Urban Water Management

**TAO LI**  
**Regional Director of IWA**

IWA ASPIRE CONFERENCE, HONG KONG, 2 NOV. 2019

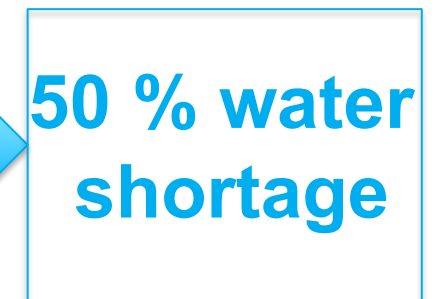
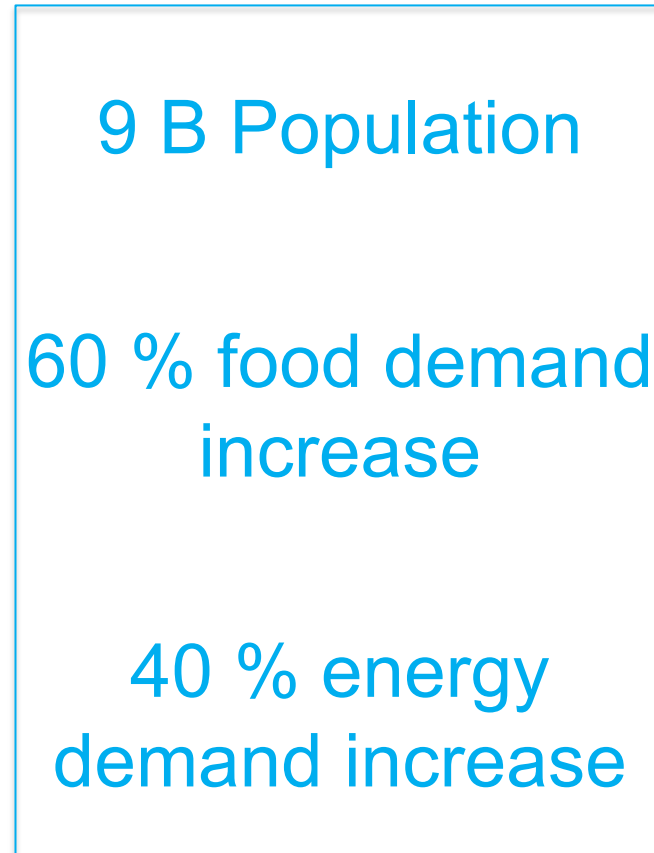
**inspiring change**



**PRESENT**



# 2050: FUTURE



Status quo is NOT an option.

We need to find new efficiencies by doing more and using MUCH less

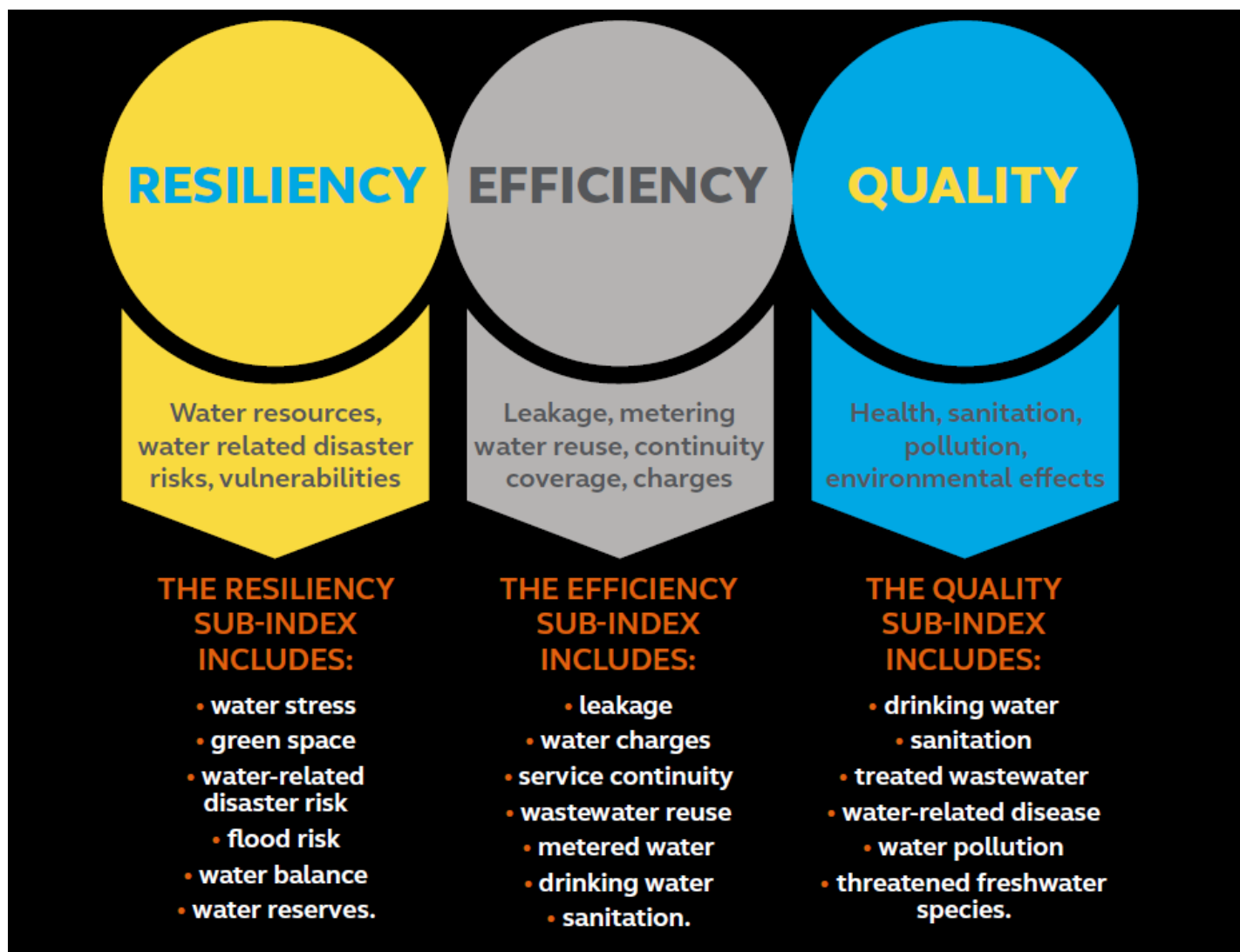


# GLOBAL PRESSURES WILL MAKE WATER MANAGEMENT DIFFICULT

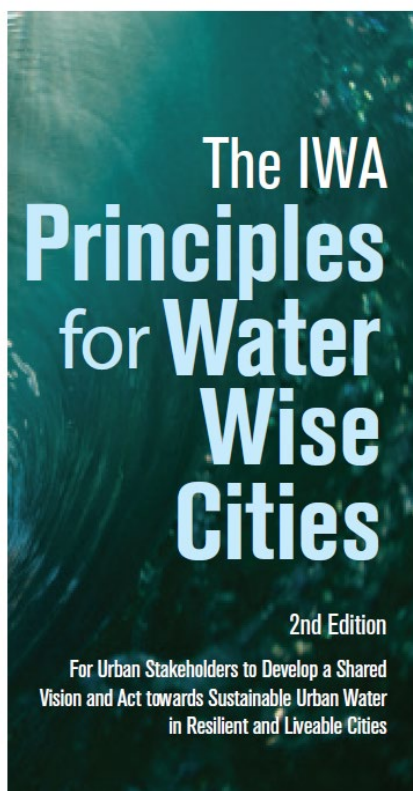
- Climate Change
- Overexploitation on water due to the escalating demands from agriculture and energy
- Aging infrastructure has been the bottleneck of efficiency on delivering water & wastewater service
- Securing water supply might trigger the pressure on energy supply (e.g. Seawater desalination, long distance water delivery, etc.)



# INDEXES FOR WATER SUSTAINABLE CITIES



# IWA PRINCIPLES FOR WATER-WISE CITIES



## 1 Regenerative Water Services

- Replenish Waterbodies and their Ecosystems
- Reduce the Amount of Water and Energy Used
- Reuse, Recover, Recycle
- Use a Systemic Approach Integrated with Other Services
- Increase the Modularity of Systems and Ensure Multiple Options

## 2 Water Sensitive Urban Design

- Enable Regenerative Water Services
- Design Urban Spaces to Reduce Flood Risks
- Enhance Liveability with Visible Water
- Modify and Adapt Urban Materials to Minimise Environmental Impact



## 3 Basin Connected Cities

- Plan to Secure Water Resources and Mitigate Drought
- Protect the Ecological Health of Water Resources
- Prepare for Extreme Events

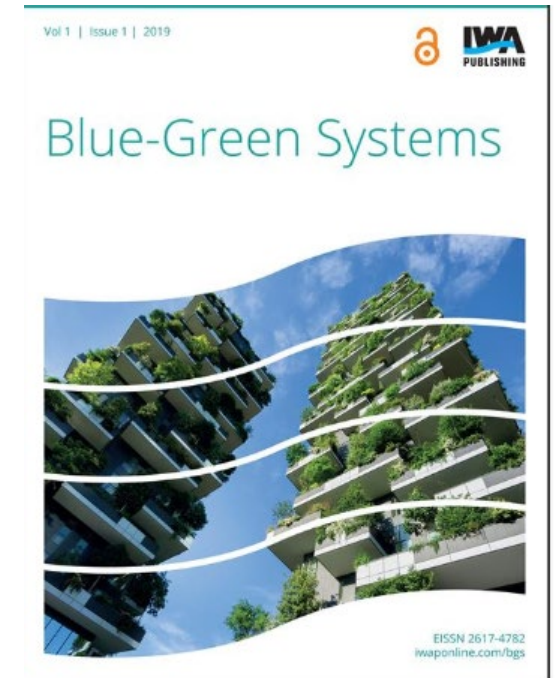
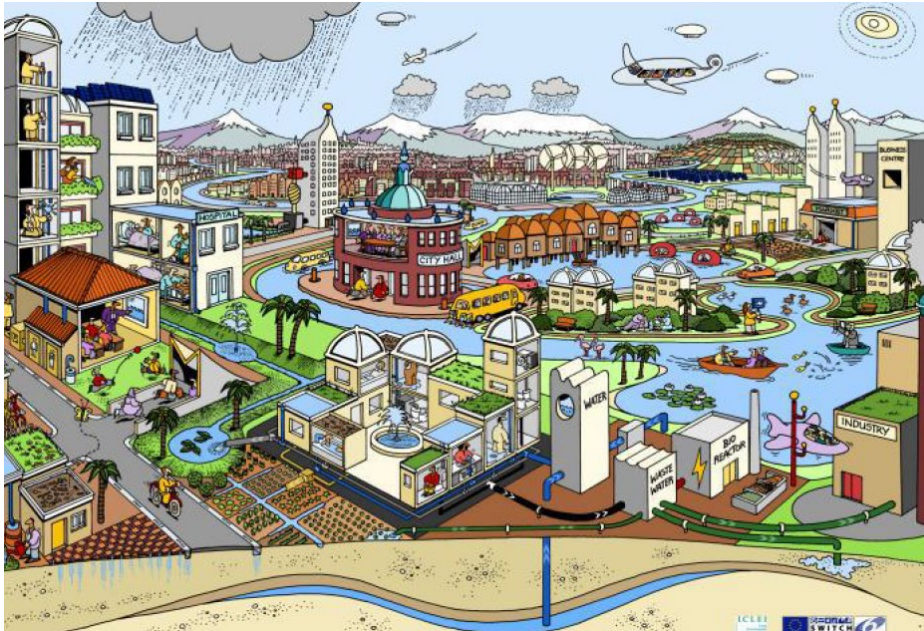
## 4 Water-Wise Communities

- Empowered Citizens
- Professionals Aware of Water Co-benefits
- Transdisciplinary Planning Teams
- Policy Makers Enabling Water-Wise Action
- Leaders that Engage and Engender Trust

<http://www.iwa-network.org/projects/water-wise-cities/>



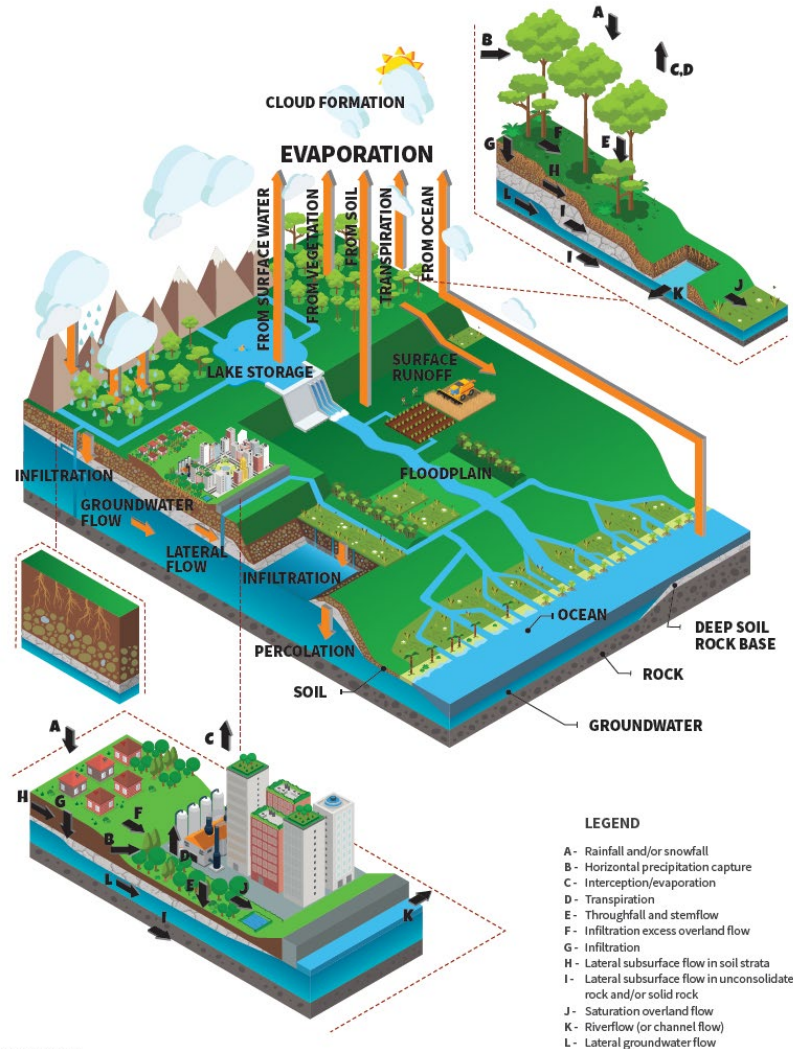
# WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN



- Water Sensitive Urban Design - Australia
- Low Impact Development – US
- Sponge City - China

IWA new journal  
“Blue - Green Systems”

# NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS



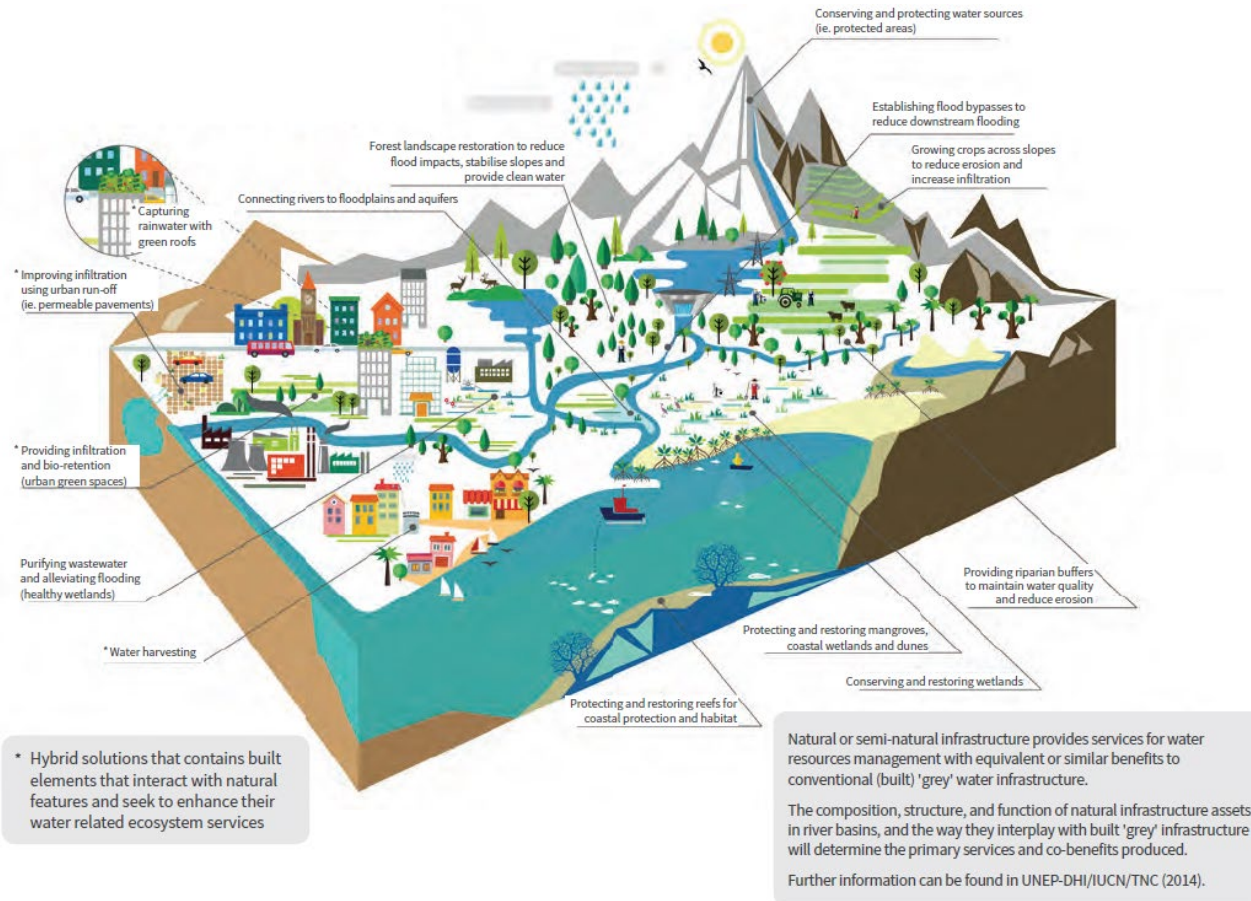
Source: WWAP

- Secure water quantity and quality
- Decrease the impacts by extreme events
- Strengthen water safety

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000261424>



# NATURE-BASED INFRASTRUCTURE IS CORE IN URBAN WATER SYSTEM



- Green roof for rainwater harvesting
- Constructing wetlands to improve water quality
- Bioretention tank and permeable pavement
- Reconnect rivers and floodplains

# REGENERATIVE WATER SERVICES

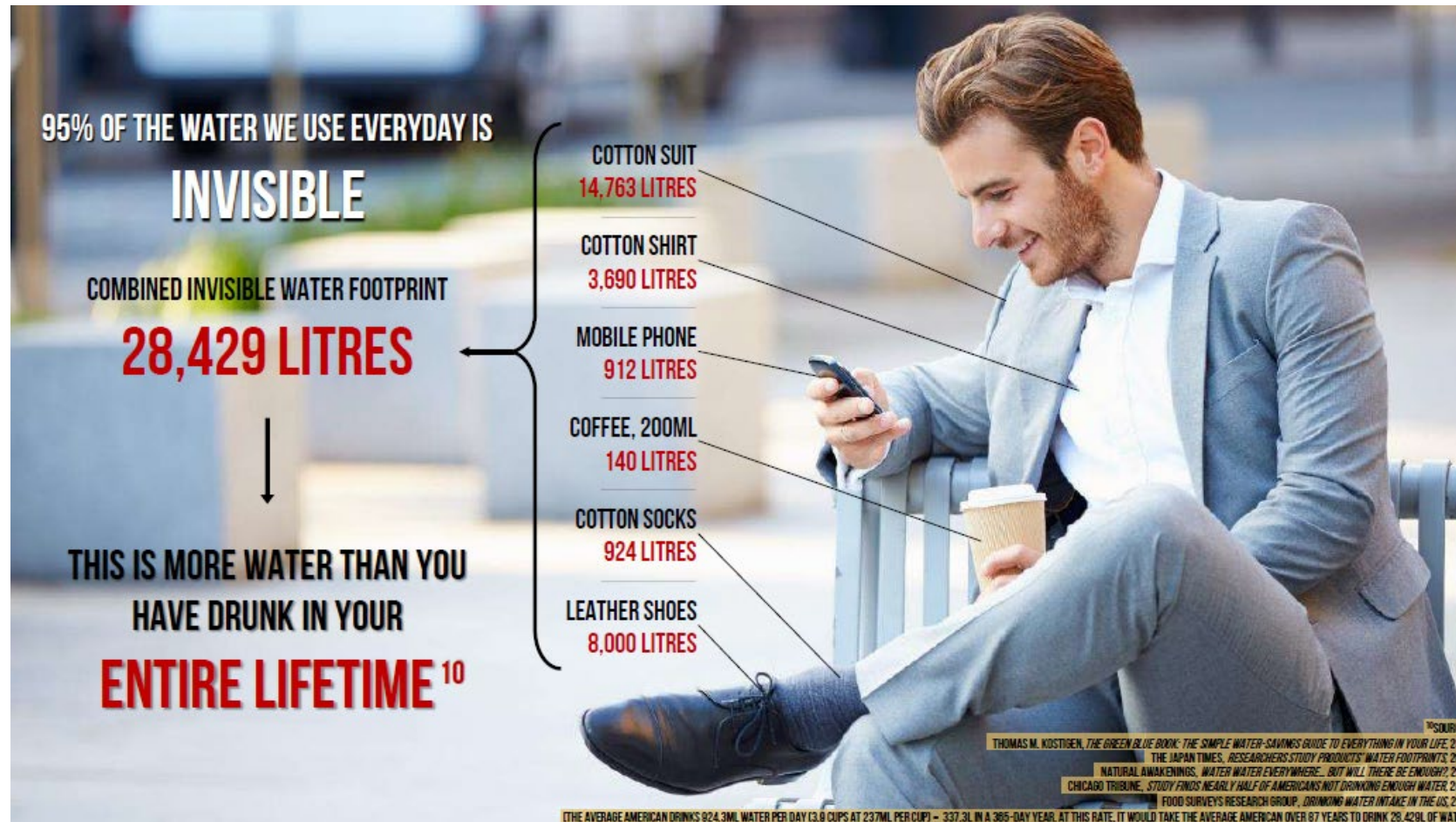
## - 3Rs CONCEPT





# REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION

- We need to understand “Virtual water” (Water footprint)





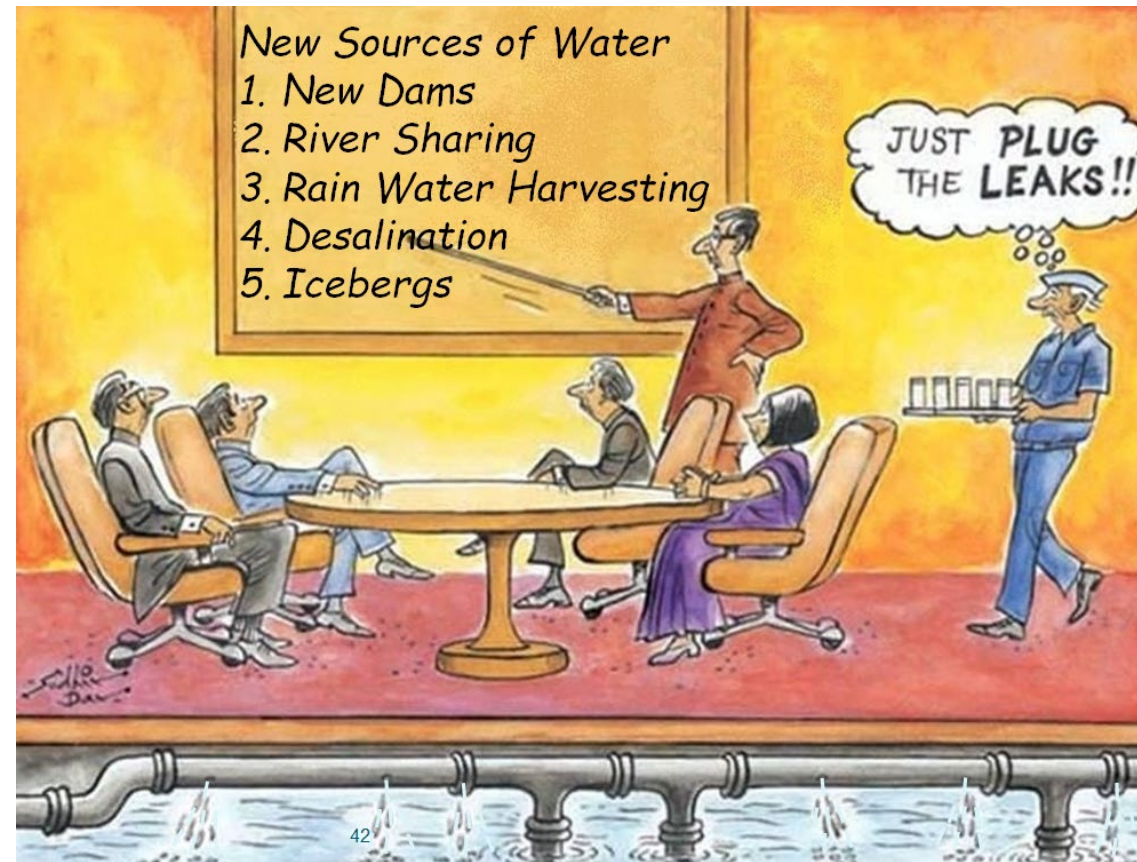
# REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION

Per unit water consumption for food

Foodstuff	Quantity	Water consumption, liters 耗水量 ( 升 )	Foodstuff	Quantity	Water consumption, liters 耗水量 ( 升 )
Chocolate 巧克力	1 kg	17,196	Pizza 披萨	1 unit	1,239
Beef 牛肉	1 kg	15,415	Apple 苹果	1 kg	822
Sheep Meat 羊肉	1 kg	10,412	Banana 香蕉	1 kg	790
Pork 猪肉	1 kg	5,988	Potatoes 土豆	1 kg	287
Butter 黄油	1 kg	5,553	Milk 牛奶	250ml glass	255
Chicken meat 鸡肉	1 kg	4,325	Cabbage 白菜	1 kg	237
Cheese 芝士	1 kg	3,178	Tomato 西红柿	1 kg	214
Olives 橄榄	1 kg	3,025	Egg 鸡蛋	1	196
Rice 大米	1 kg	2,497	Wine 红酒	250ml glass	109
Pasta (dry) 通心粉	1 kg	1,849	Beer 啤酒	250ml glass	74
Bread 面包	1 kg	1,608	Tea 茶	250 ml cup	27

Meat and milk production may double by 2050, What does it mean for water and pollution?

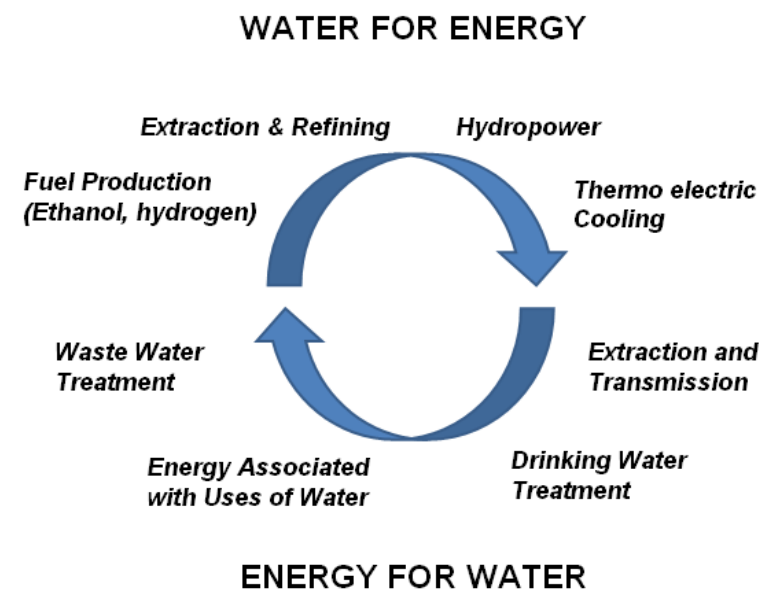
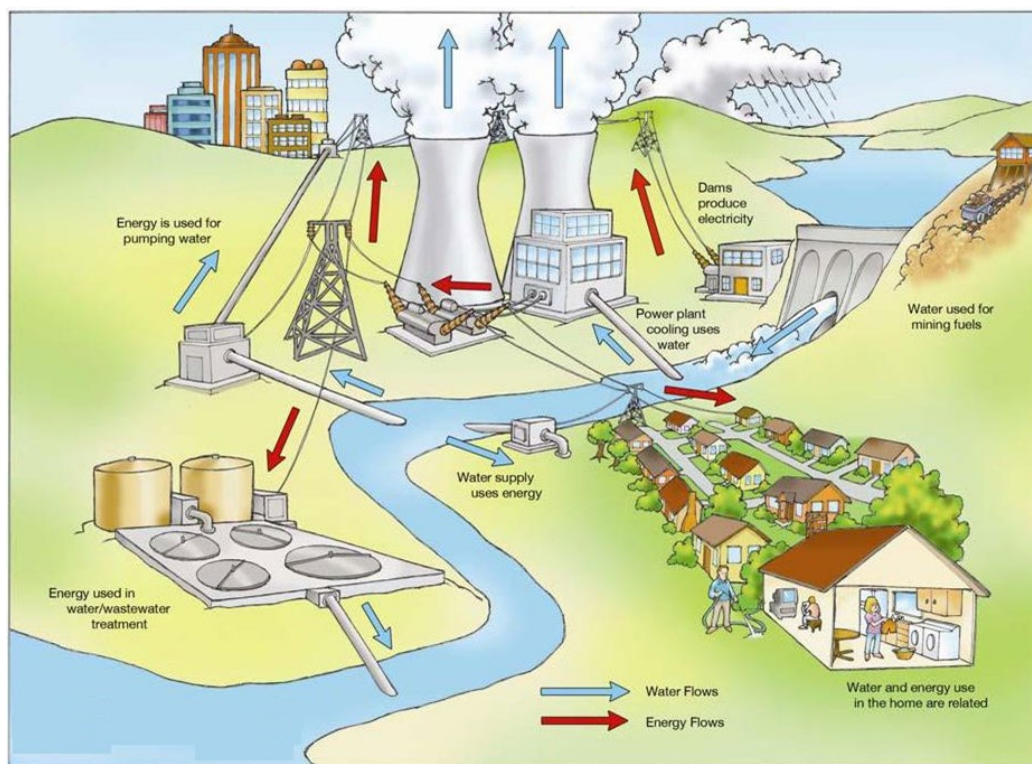
# REDUCE WATER LEAKAGE



Reduce water leakage **MUST** be one of the priorities of water suppliers.  
50% WL decrease will benefit 90 M people

Courtesy of Malcom Farley

# WATER AND ENERGY NEXUS

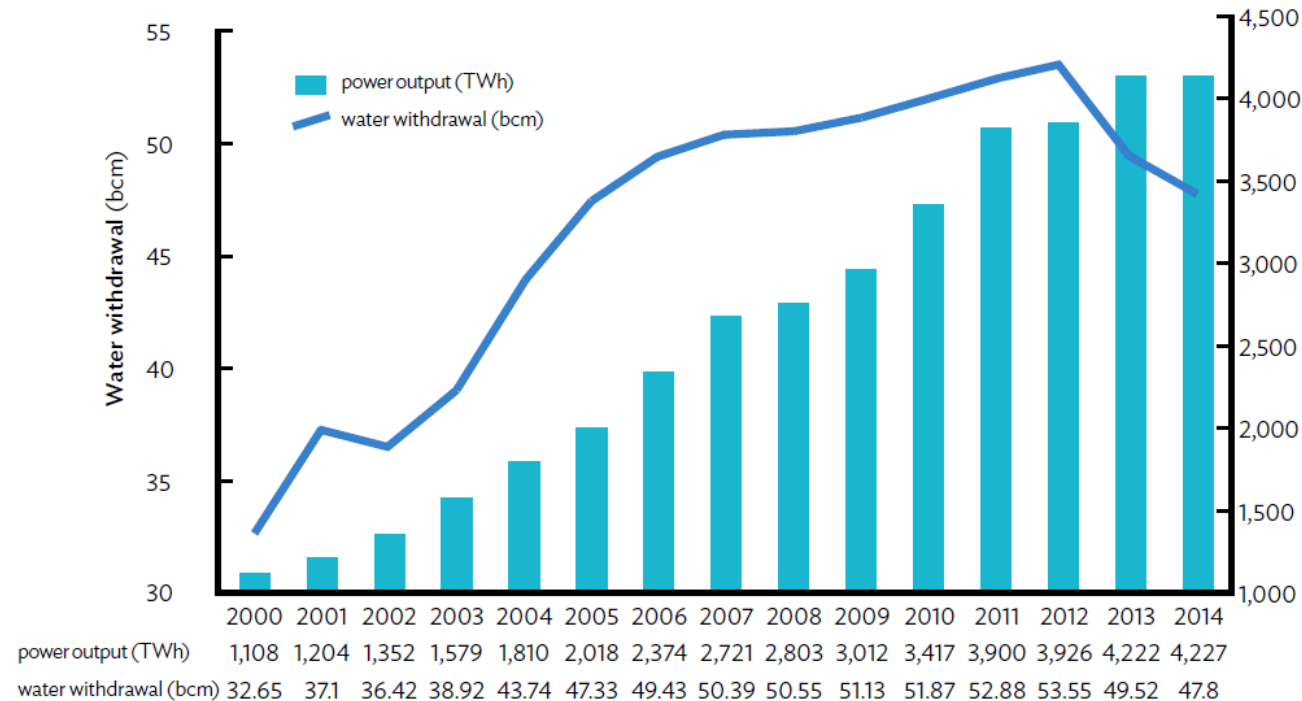


Water and energy are both key elements for urban sustainability



# REDUCE WATER IN ENERGY SECTOR

## Trends in power generation and associated water withdraw in China 2000-2014



bcm= billion cubic meter, TWh = terawatt-hour.

Sources: Ministry of Water Resources. 2001–2015; China Electricity Council. 2001–2015; and World Resources Institute estimates.

- Power plant is the largest industrial consumer in China , around 8% total water usage
- Saving energy is saving water

# REDUCE ENERGY IN WATER SECTOR

- Water sector has been one of the largest energy consumers
- 4-5% (US), 3% (UK), 10% (Israel), 20% (California)
- 35 % cost in water utilities is associated with energy
- Saving water is saving energy



# ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN WATER

Total water use cycle energy intensity: 0.53-5.3 KWh/m<sup>3</sup>

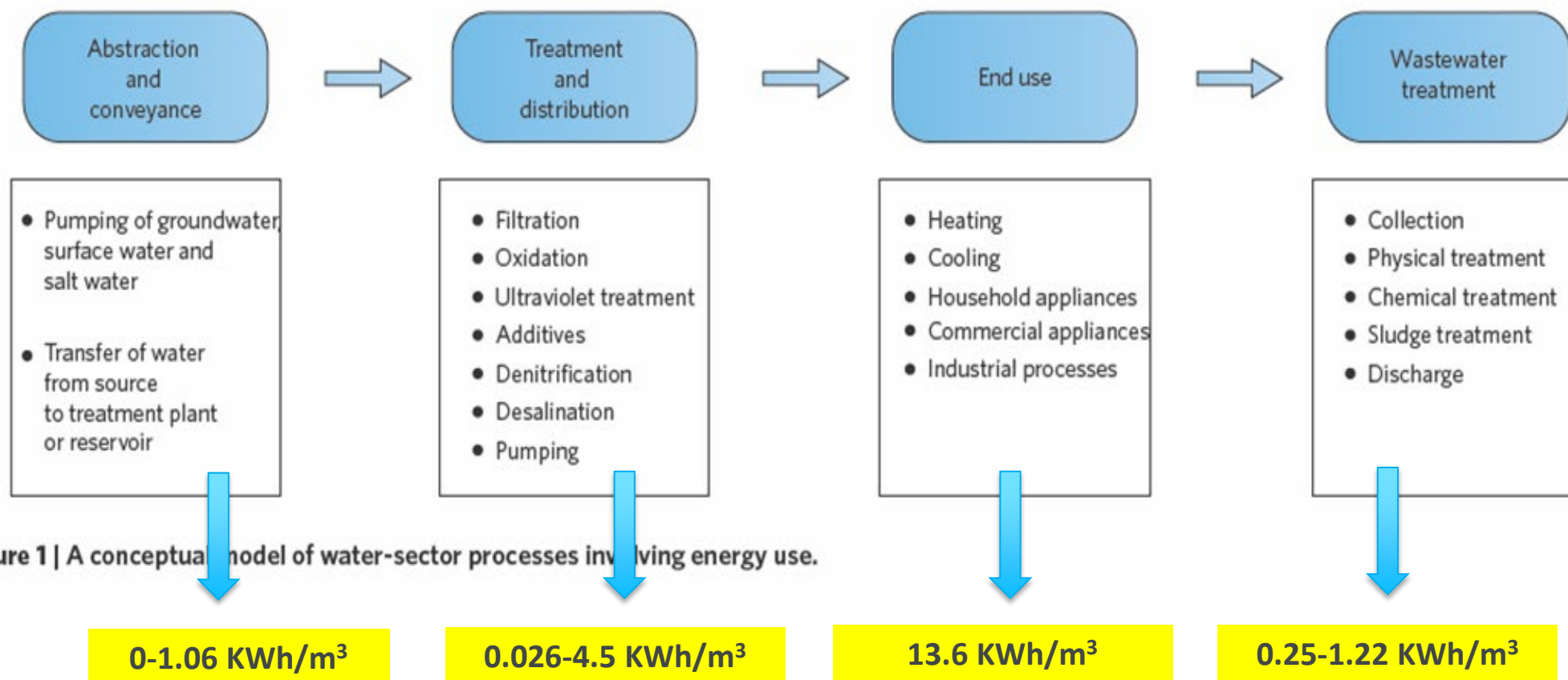


Figure 1 | A conceptual model of water-sector processes involving energy use.

Old approaches: add energy for trading water quality

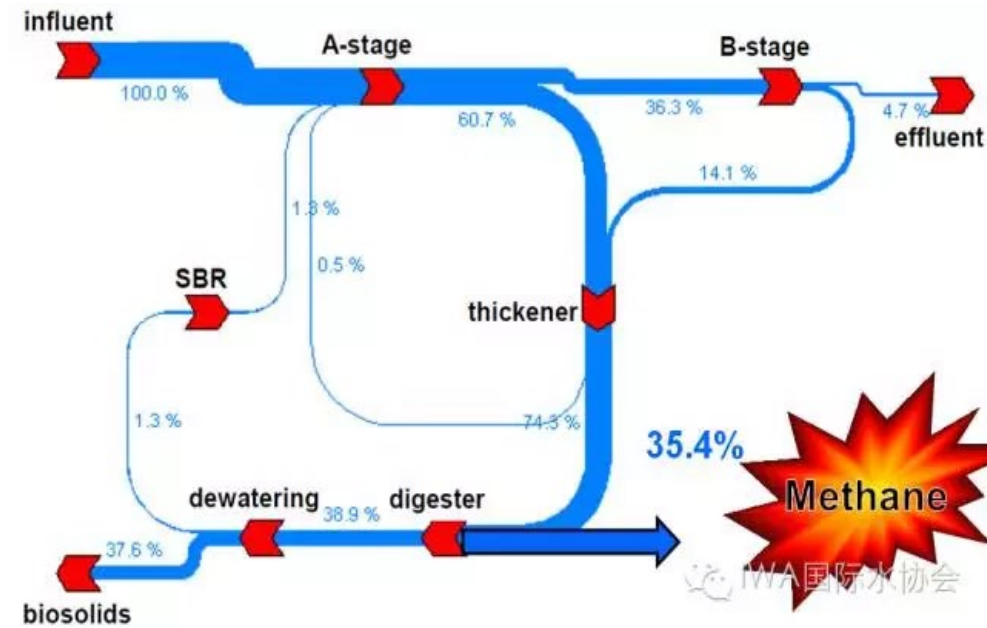


# NEW PARADIGM: ENERGY NEUTRALITY WWTP

<b>Energy Saving</b> <b>10-20%</b>  ( fine bubble aeration, energy efficient motors and pumps)	<b>Renewable Energy</b> <b>5-10%</b>  ( wind, solar, thermal)
<b>Energy from sewage flows</b> <b>2-10%</b>  ( hydro-turbines, heat pumps)	<b>Sludge</b> <b>40-100%</b>  ( anaerobic digestion)

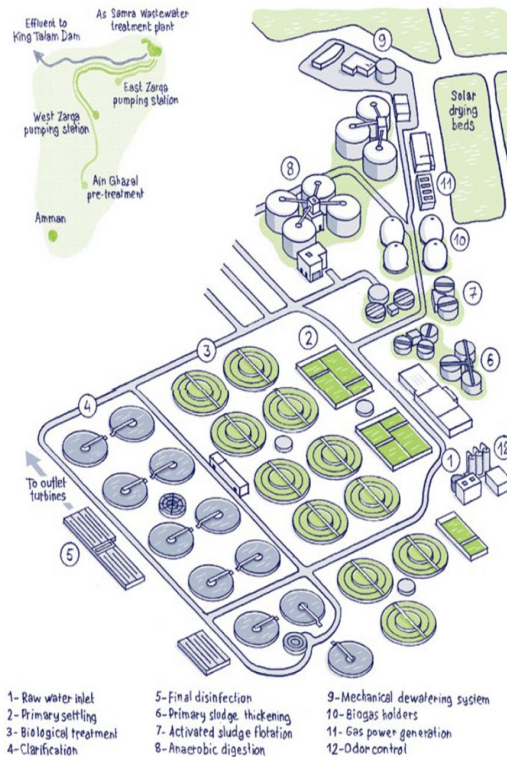
# ENERGY NEUTRALITY WWTP CASE STUDY

## - STRASS IN AUSTRIA



- Side stream Anammox has been implemented since 2006, and achieved 108% energy recovery
- 200% energy recovery has been achieved with food waste co-digestion since 2016

# ENERGY NEUTRALITY WWTP CASE STUDY - AS SAMRA IN JORDAN



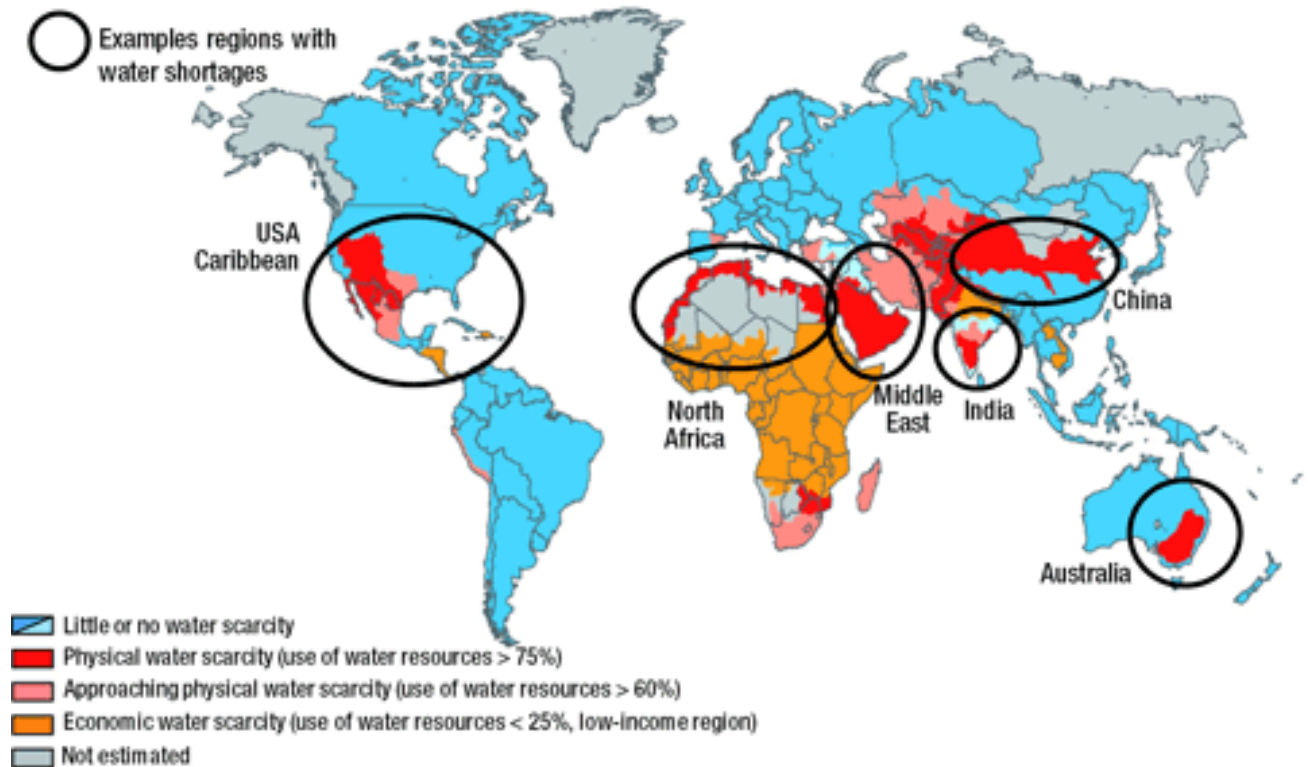
- 70% Wastewater in Jordan
- 90% energy recovery
- 10% agriculture water supply
- 230,000 Kwh/d



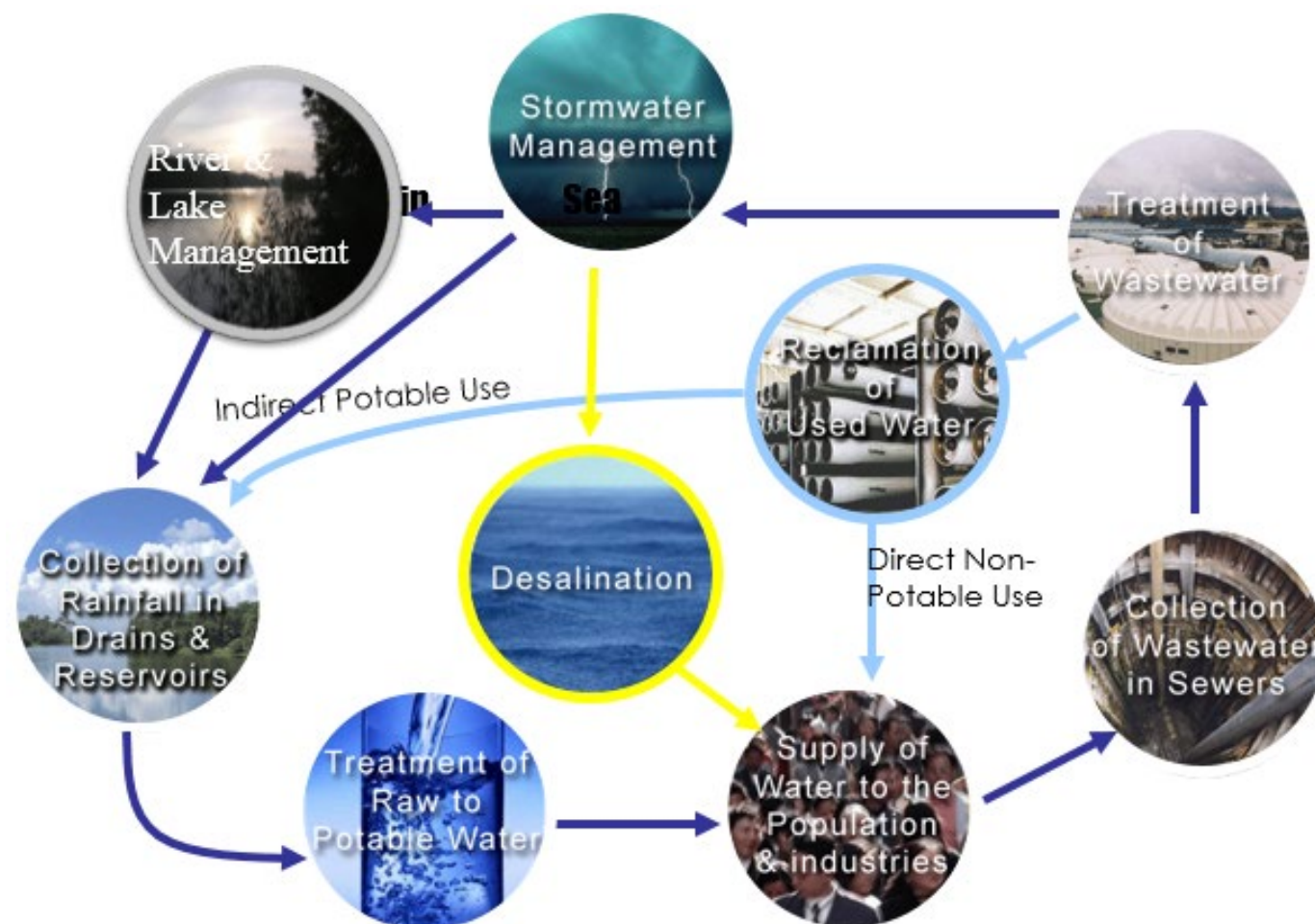
# REDUCE FRESH WATER INTAKE

## - ALTERNATIVE WATER RESOURCES (AWR)

- Rainwater
- Used Water
- Brackish Water/ Sea Water



# AWR: SINGAPORE CASE



# WASTEWATER REUSE- NOT POTABLE

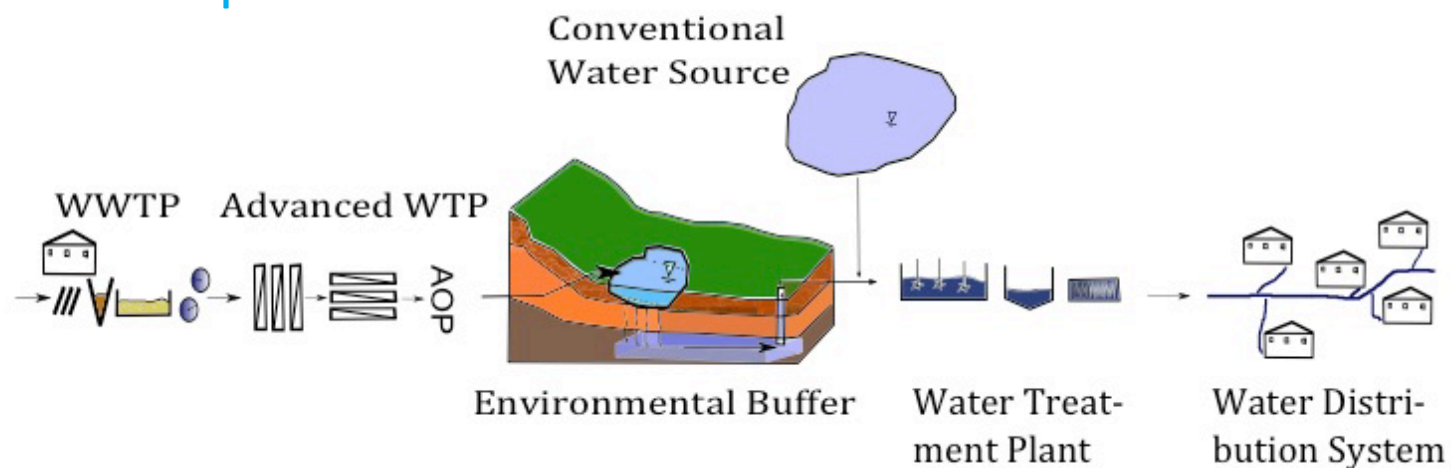


- The conventional WWTPs haven't been designed without reusing purpose
- Used water has been widely reviewed as 2nd water resources in many cities
- Mainly reused for Irrigation, industry, toilet ect.
- More adaptable in newly developed area.
- Fit for Purpose reuse

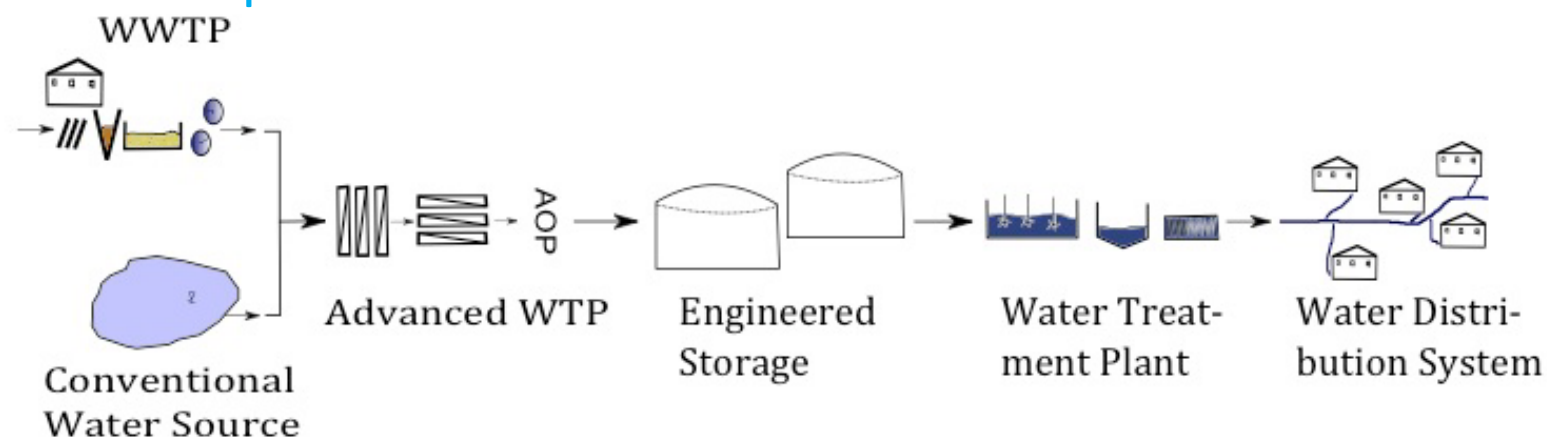


# WASTEWATER REUSE- POTABLE

- Indirect potable water reuse



- Direct potable water reuse



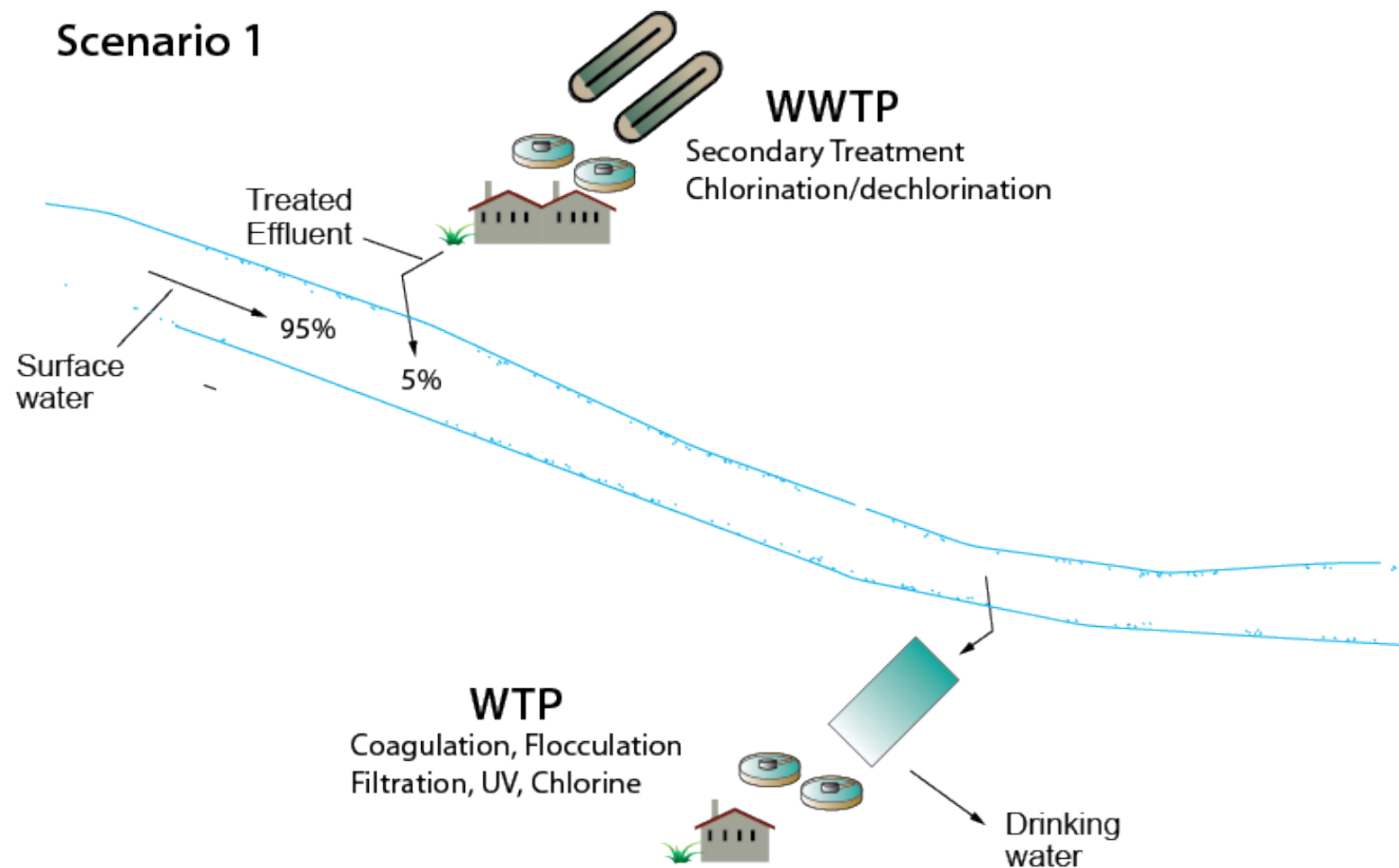
# HISTORY OF POTABLE REUSE

- 1962 - **Montebello Forebay Spreading Grounds**, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, California, USA
- 1968 - (Old) **Goreangab Water Reclamation Plant**, Windhoek
- 1976 - **Water Factory 21**, OCWD, California, USA
- 1978 - **Upper Occoquan Service Authority**, Virginia, USA
- 1985 - Hueco Bolson Recharge Project, El Paso, Texas, USA
- 1985 - Clayton County, Georgia, USA
- 1993 - West Basin Water Recycling Plant, California, USA
- 1999 - Gwinnett County, California, USA
- 1999 - Scottsdale Water Campus, Arizona, USA
- 2002 - New Goreangab Water Reclamation Plant, Windhoek, Namibia
- 2002 - **Toreele Reuse Plant**, Belgium
- 2003 - **NeWater Bedok**, Kranji Singapore
- 2005 - Alimos Barrier, California, USA
- 2007 - Chino Basin Recharge Project, California, USA
- 2008 - **Groundwater Replenishment Project**, California, USA
- 2008 - Loudon County, Virginia, USA
- 2008 - Western Corridor, Queensland, Australia
- 2009 - Arapahoe/Cottonwood, Colorado, USA
- 2010 - NeWater, Changi, Singapore
- 2010 - **Prairie Waters Project**, Colorado, USA
- 2010 - **Groundwater Replenishment Trial**, Perth, Australia
- 2012 - Dominguez Gap Barrier, California, USA
- 2012 - **Beaufort West**, South Africa
- 2013 - **Big Spring**, Texas, USA
- 2014 - Groundwater Replenishment Project, California (Expansion), USA
- 2015 - Wichita Falls, Texas, USA



Jorg Drewes (2015), Recent Developments in Potable Reuse. Springer

# De Facto Potable Reuse is Common

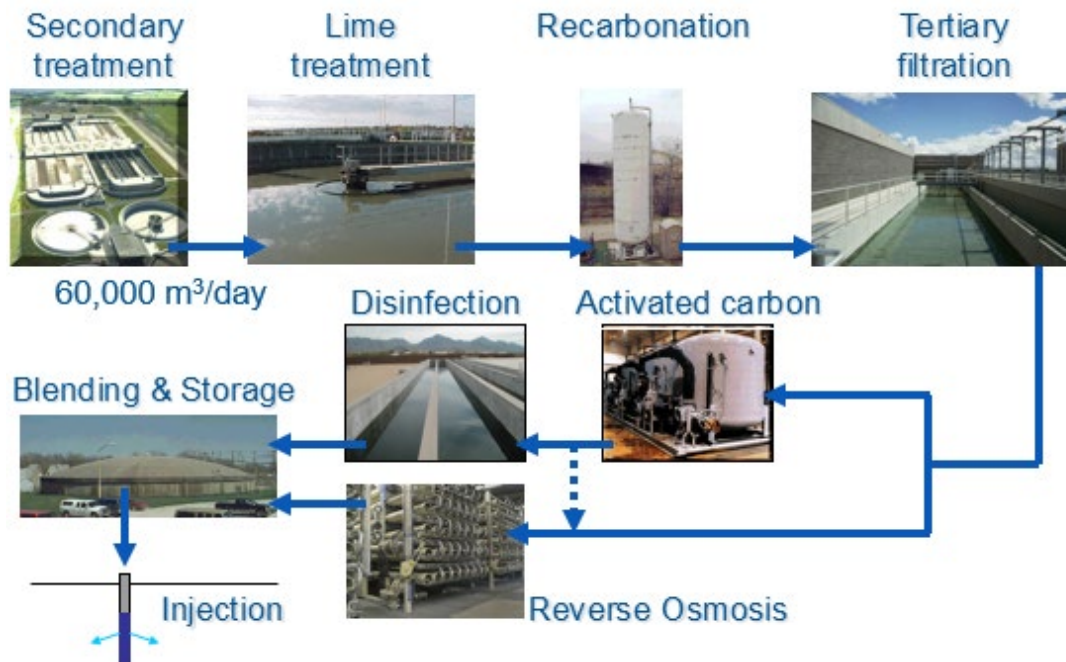




# CALIFORNIA - GROUND WATER REPLENISH SYSTEM- GWRS

## Groundwater Recharge

- Orange County, California (Water Factory 21)



- 1<sup>st</sup> plant to use RO technology (1976)
- 379,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d, the largest groundwater recharge project in the world

# RESOURCES RECOVERY

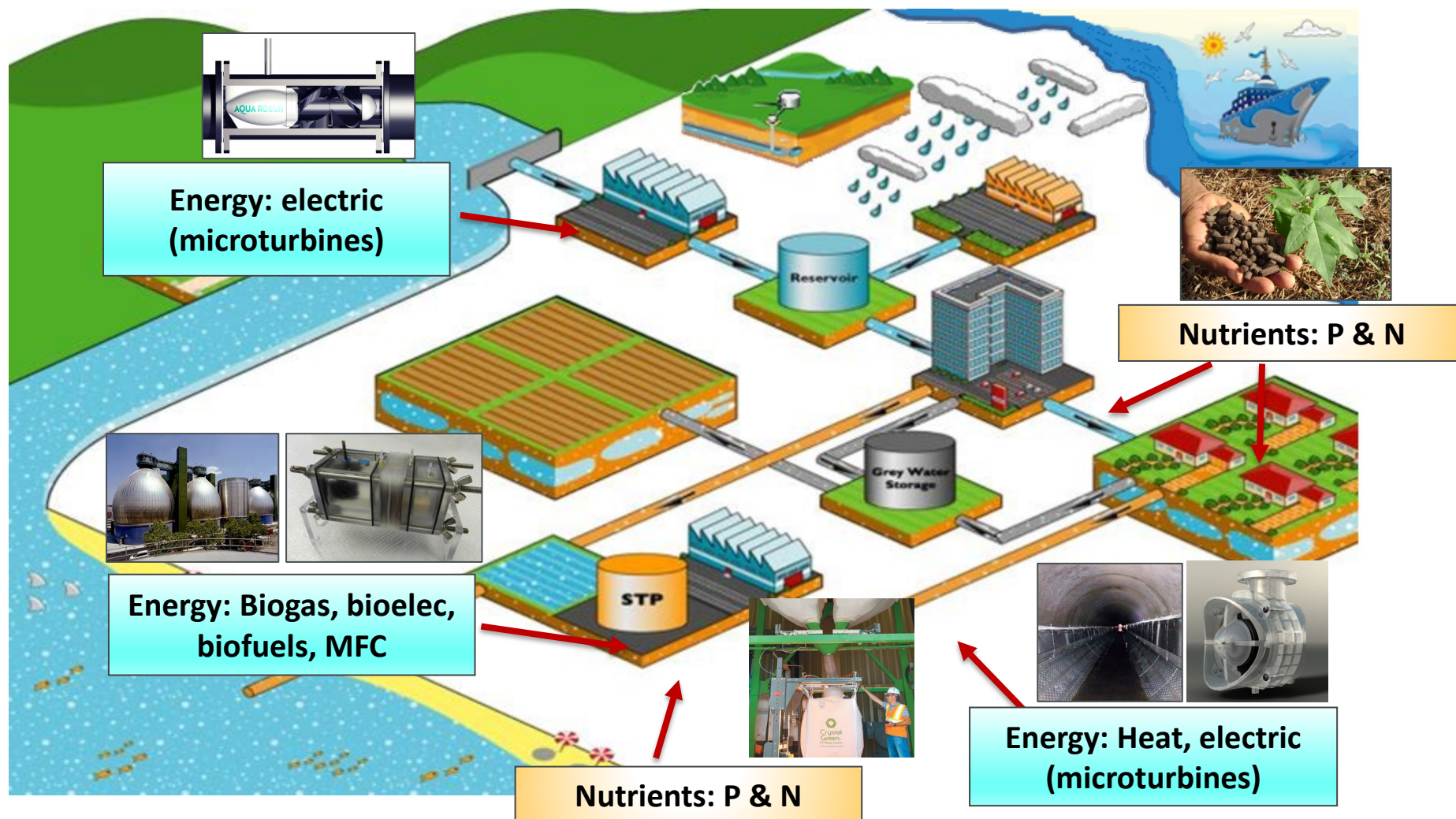
## - PHOSPHORUS RECOVERY IN CHICAGO



- Stickney WWTP has invested 31 M US\$ to build the largest recovery facility in the world
- 10,000 Tons struvite is expected to be produced annually



# WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITIES





# CONCLUSIONS:

- Changing our perspective creates opportunity to do things differently
- Circular economy model will be widely adopted in water sector

