Water Positive Initiative

Around 2.2 billion people worldwide lack access to safe drinking water, and more than 4.2 billion lack adequate sanitation facilities. By 2050, global water demand is expected to increase by 55%, with agriculture accounting for the majority of this increase. Water scarcity is already affecting many countries worldwide, where it is predicted to intensify due to a combination of climate change, population growth, and economic development.

To address this challenge, the United Nations has set a goal of ensuring access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030, as part of its Sustainable Development Goals. This includes reducing water waste, increasing efficiency, and investing in infrastructure and technologies that can help to conserve and protect water resources.

The Water Positive initiative aligns with these goals, providing a framework for companies to take action on their water footprint and contribute to a more sustainable future for all.

A company is defined as Water Positive when its water mass balance is positive with respect to the difference between the generation of Purified Water and the direct or indirect consumption of Fresh Water to produce goods or services.

Corporations can compensate for their water footprint and become Water Positive by producing high-quality water through desalination and water reuse and by reducing their overall water consumption. Desalination and water reuse are the most effective means of helping the natural water cycle. Meanwhile, the industry remains steadfast in its production of goods, food and services at a high rate.

The Water Positive framework creates a marketplace similar to the carbon credits market that would compensate for water footprint instead of CO2 emissions. The main difference is that carbon offsetting involves gases and is independent of the place where the gas is generated, whereas water offsetting would imply other variables, such as water footprint trade, local water scarcity, produced water transportation, as well as social, economic, and environmental issues.

This initiative is an important step towards promoting sustainable water use and mitigating the effects of water scarcity and climate change. To ensure the success of this initiative, the International Desalination Association IDA and its affiliates, including AEDYR, AMTA, ALADYR, CARIBDA, and strategic partners, have been working diligently to develop a comprehensive framework. This framework aims to establish a set of best practices and guidelines that companies can use to reduce their water footprint, promote efficient water use, and make positive contributions to global water resources.

We understand that the success of the Water Positive initiative relies heavily on collaboration and feedback from various stakeholders in the industry. Therefore, we welcome input from industry professionals, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the public to help us refine the framework and ensure that it is effective and practical for all.

Our Statement:

As young leaders, we must take the lead in promoting sustainable water management practices and building a more water-secure future. By working together and leveraging the latest technologies and best practices, we can ensure that everyone has access to clean, safe drinking water.

Desalination and reuse have become a necessary hydrological tool for complementing natural water resources in countries such as Spain with water scarcity, and for mitigating the effects of climate change. When applied correctly, these methods do not have any detectable environmental impact. They can improve health conditions and have a positive social impact by supplying water for human consumption, industry, and agriculture.

For over 70 years, places as Caribbean Region has set an inspiring example of how desalination can harmoniously coexist with nature while providing unparalleled benefits for human wellbeing.

This statement emphasizes the critical importance of global water resources and promotes the use of membrane technology as a proven, robust solution to address water scarcity. Membranes provide numerous cost-effective and reliable ways to safely produce, recycle, or reuse water, benefiting communities worldwide.

Desalination and Reuse have the potential to transform unusable water into a valuable resource, helping the water cycle to produce more water to achieve the SDG´s. We should classify water by its purity, not but its source. Together, we can make a meaningful impact on water conservation and sustainability, and build a brighter future for generations to come.