

Submitted by the United States to the  
Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the  
13<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development

## Policy Options and Practical Measures to Expedite Implementation on Water

*Based on the broad range of experiences and best practices that emerged from CSD-12, the policy options and practical measures highlighted below can advance progress toward internationally agreed objectives related to enhancing water use efficiency, managing competing resources, water quality, ecosystem management, and disaster prevention (including, inter alia, Agenda 21, Ch. 18; CSD 6, paragraphs 10, 12-14; and, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, paragraphs 8, 25, 26, 27, & 37). Although these options may find widespread applicability, not all of them are necessarily relevant to every circumstance.*

### Themes:

- **Enhancing water use efficiency and managing competing uses**
- **Water quality, ecosystem management and disaster prevention**

- Develop economic incentives to encourage investments in water saving technologies.
- Develop web-based guides of best management practices for water conservation and irrigation.  
*Case study: The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Technical Guides*  
(<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/>)
- Consider ecosystem management as a viable means of providing long-term safe water supplies.  
*Case study: Watershed Management for Urban Water Supply*  
([http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/environment/water/case\\_studies/nyc.watershed.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/water/case_studies/nyc.watershed.pdf))
- In emergency, disaster and/or humanitarian situations, consider point-of-use household water treatment as a means of providing safe drinking water from unsafe and/or unimproved water sources.  
*Case Studies: The Safe Water System* ([www.cdc.gov/safewater](http://www.cdc.gov/safewater)) and PuR  
(<http://www.pghsi.com/communicatios/pur.htm>)
- Develop incentives to encourage changes in land use practices that improve water quality in agricultural landscapes.
- Develop monitoring programs to establish baseline conditions and better understanding of water resources.  
*Case Studies: The National Assessment of Water Quality and Use*  
(<http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/circ/circ1223/>)

### **To encourage demand management:**

- Develop water conservation standards.
- Establish usage-based water tariffs and water usage fees.
- Implement water usage metering.

### **To protect water quality:**

- Eliminate the discharge of pollutants into navigable water.
- Prohibit the discharge of toxic pollutants in toxic amounts.
- Establish a national goal to reach a level of water quality – wherever attainable – that provides for the propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife and provides for recreation.

- Provide federal financial assistance to construct publicly owned water treatment works.
- Conduct research to develop technologies to eliminate the discharge of pollutants into navigable water including the oceans.

*Case Studies:*    *The United States Safe Drinking Water Act*  
[\(<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/index.html>\)](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/index.html)  
*White Water to Blue Water*(<http://www.ww2bw.org/home> )