

# News Release

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## Water in the West Proposes Research Agenda to Facilitate Water-Energy Policy and Management

STANFORD, Calif. - April 29, 2014 - Although California has been at the forefront in studying and evaluating the connections between water and energy, there is still little understanding of the energy impacts on water availability, use and quality within any given region or watershed in the state. With the current statewide drought and rising energy costs, there is a critical need for better information.

To help fill these knowledge gaps, Water in the West at Stanford University today released "[A Water-Energy Research Agenda: Building California's Policy Foundation for the 21st Century.](#)" This report identifies key components that merit research in order to move public policy and implementation forward and achieve effective coordination of water-energy planning and management in the state.

Among the high-impact research priorities that the report identifies are:

- Realign water and energy policy and decision-making processes to facilitate coordination of funding sources, accountability mechanisms and governance structure
- Develop decision support tools to assess the socioeconomic value of potential statewide energy-saving strategies across the water-use life cycle
- Develop a comprehensive, high-resolution water-energy data platform
- Study effective and improved water pricing policies
- Evaluate the impacts of energy production and use on water availability and security on a watershed basis

Water in the West has been instrumental in bringing together leaders in water policy and management to collaborate and solve problems. "A Water-Energy Research Agenda" is the second of six research papers on California water issues that Water in the West will publish during 2014.

"We hope some of the proposed research will help build California's water-energy foundation for future cross-sector collaboration and inspire informed, science-driven and integrative water-energy policy innovation," said Newsha Ajami, author of the paper and director of urban water policy at Water in the West.

[Read the full report here.](#)

### About Water in the West

Water in the West is a partnership of the faculty, staff and students of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment and The Bill Lane Center for the American West. The mission of Water in the West is to design, articulate and advance sustainable water management for the people and environment of the American West.



Linking ideas to action, it accomplishes this mission by engaging in cutting-edge research, creative problem solving, active collaboration with decision-makers and opinion leaders, effective public communication and hands-on education of students. To learn more visit: [waterinthewest.stanford.edu](http://waterinthewest.stanford.edu).



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