

Water Crisis of 2020: Timeline Highlights

Alternative Future Project
EGRS/EVST 373, Spring 2016

19th Century: Beginning of Water in America

- Wells
- Public sewage systems
- Water towers
- Sanitation and waste water treatment

1972: Clean Water Act

- Enacted by the CWA, EPA to govern pollution of drinking water
- Implementation of pollution control programs
- Wastewater and contamination standards for industry

2011: California Drought Begins

- Most water is used for agriculture industry
- California has highest total domestic water use numbers in the United States
- 2015 was California's warmest year on record

2020: Nationwide Water Crisis Announced

- President George Thorne addresses country in televised news alert

2020: China Constructs Desalination Plants

- Technological fix includes putting tons of money and energy into desalinating water from oceans/lakes
- Not practical because only behavioral changes will result
- No change in how people view the use of water and human relationship with nature

2022: Greywater Systems Required

- Implementation of greywater systems is mandatory according to new country-wide building codes
- Technological solution to reuse water helps change behaviors and attitudes for suburban household owners as well as industry

2028: Rethink Water Campaign by EPA

- Promotion of vegetarian lifestyles, local gardening, eating seasonally
- K-12 Education programs implemented: Educating children in America on water-friendly choices/reuse practices, teaching how to live sustainably and grow food at home

2028: Meatless Monday, Digitizing Companies by EPA

- Safeway, Walmart, Trader Joe's etc. agree not to sell meat products on Mondays
- Large corporations are required to become completely electronic to reduce paper, with nopes that no Solar Flares occur in the near future

2030: East Coast Rainwater Collection

- East coast homes utilize weather patterns by collecting rainwater into tanks to use for home irrigation
- America as a whole is working towards water-saving/reuse habits

2035: Agriculture Industry Reshaped

- Farm industry takes oath to reduce food waste by over 30% to cut water consumption by 80% (numbers compared to 2016)

2040: A Hopeful Future

- Technological, societal, and political implementations had a goal of reshaping the way people of America (and the rest of the world) think about our consumption of natural resources
- Attitudes and behaviors changed, nature is no longer considered a “standing reserve”