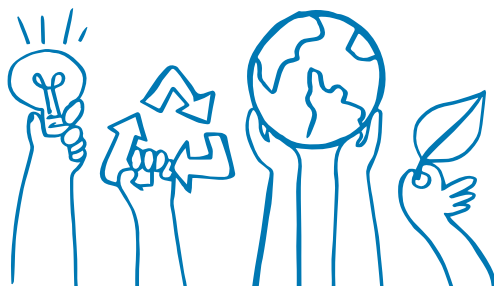


5 things governments can do to protect groundwater

Apply the Precautionary Principle

Recognize that the dire situation for groundwater is a result of many unintended consequences. The Precautionary Principle (PP) must, therefore, be the guiding principle for groundwater governance, which is currently not the case.

1



Change food habits

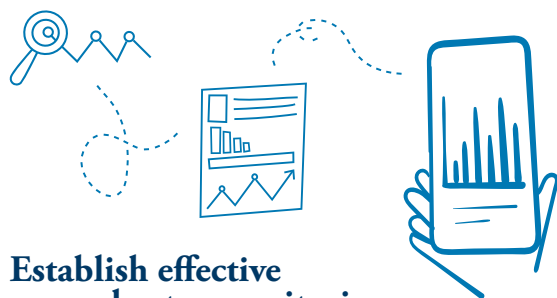
Nearly all of groundwater depletion and most groundwater pollution result from 'modern chemical agriculture'. Ecological agriculture is better as it is a form of cradle-to-cradle production applied to food. We should also move away from eating beef. Impose taxes or penalties on groundwater pollution caused by agriculture and eliminate government subsidies that contribute to groundwater unsustainability.

2

Shift to cradle-to-cradle production

In today's current cradle-to-grave manufacturing, groundwater ends up as the grave for harmful chemicals from manufacturing processes and from products. But cradle-to-cradle thinking is becoming more common – and this is the way forward. In a circular economy, no manufacturing processes and products emit chemicals harmful to water.

3



Establish effective groundwater monitoring

Use modern monitoring methods for groundwater levels and hydrochemistry with data transparency in all areas where groundwater is a significant resource. Modern cost-effective methods exist, including technology for real-time data recording. In most cases, the data should also be fully available for the public, to view on their smartphones or tablets.

4



Strengthen groundwater governance

Groundwater depletion and pollution can often be attributed to poor governance, frequently stemming from a lack of knowledge about groundwater. There is a need to make groundwater science more accessible: for example, through the [Groundwater Project](#), and to raise capacity about groundwater governance.

5



Learn more about groundwater and how to protect it on siwi.org