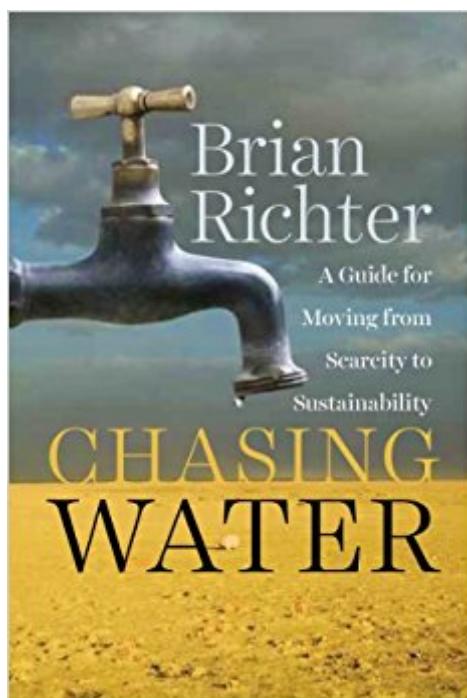


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# Chasing Water: A Guide For Moving From Scarcity To Sustainability



## Synopsis

Water scarcity is spreading and intensifying in many regions of the world, with dire consequences for local communities, economies, and freshwater ecosystems. Current approaches tend to rely on policies crafted at the state or national level, which on their own have proved insufficient to arrest water scarcity. To be durable and effective, water plans must be informed by the culture, economics, and varied needs of affected community members. International water expert Brian Richter argues that sustainable water sharing in the twenty-first century can only happen through open, democratic dialogue and local collective action. In *Chasing Water*, Richter tells a cohesive and complete story of water scarcity: where it is happening, what is causing it, and how it can be addressed. Through his engaging and nontechnical style, he strips away the complexities of water management to its bare essentials, providing information and practical examples that will empower community leaders, activists, and students to develop successful and long-lasting water programs. *Chasing Water* will provide local stakeholders with the tools and knowledge they need to take an active role in the watershed-based planning and implementation that are essential for water supplies to remain sustainable in perpetuity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Richter draws on his worldwide travels for examples of creative solutions to water shortages. [Chasing Water] provides a road map for communities to take an active role in managing this most vital resource." ( Conservation Magazine)"Richter distills the complex global dynamic of expanding

water scarcity into an eloquent personal narrative that explains the challenges and offers practical tools to tackle them. With straightforward solutions that apply equally to the southwestern United States and sub-Saharan Africa, Richter empowers his readers and inspires action. Readers from many backgrounds will benefit from this book, and I count myself among them." (Michael McClain Professor, UNESCO-IHE Institute of Water Education, Delft, The Netherlands)"Chasing Water undoubtedly adds a compelling summary and perspective to addressing water sustainability." (Groundwater)"[Chasing Water] offers a clear, information rich, pragmatic and motivating vision on water scarcity....A great book. We should have more publications of this stimulating type." (Environment, Development and Sustainability)"Chasing Water is a cogent, hopeful vision of achieving water sustainability for humans and aquatic ecosystems alike, from a global expert on freshwater policy and conservation science. Richter's sustainability principles and case studies illustrating democratic water governance inspire us to seek collective solutions for seemingly intractable water management challenges." (LeRoy Poff Professor of Biology, Colorado State University)"Chasing Water is a must read for all river enthusiasts and seekers of practical solutions. Immensely readable and intriguing, this book will awaken your senses, provoke you to think deeply about the choices we make, and give you tools to carve a more sustainable future. Don't miss it!" (Nicole Silk President, River Network)"With clarity and vision, Brian Richter has written the perfect primer on water scarcity—what it is, where it exists, and what we can do about it. It will be of immense value to students, professors, policymakers, and anyone interested in creating a more secure water future." (Sandra Postel Freshwater Fellow, National Geographic Society)"How the global community manages and cares for this most precious resource will be one of the most urgent questions in the twenty-first century. This powerful and absorbing book offers principles for citizen-empowered water governance and stewardship that integrate broad societal values. This is an indispensable book for policy makers and citizens of the world." (Gavin Power Executive Director, United Nations CEO Water Mandate)"The book offers a clear, information rich, pragmatic and motivating vision on water scarcity." (International Journal of Environment & Pollution)"This is a book of balance—delivered with appreciated measures of integrity and clarity." (Foreword Reviews)

Brian Richter is director of Global Freshwater Strategies for the Nature Conservancy, where he promotes sustainable water use and management with governments, corporations, and local communities.

We read about the problems every day, see the negative consequences when we drive around and wonder what can be done? Water conservation has been and will ever be the answer. Brian Richter offers us a detailed and considered look into just that. No need to chase it anymore because he tells you how to find it! Very readable and quite rewarding.

Good source of facts and figures but a bit too based in altruism than I think was necessary.

A lot of valuable information. A very clear and interesting read, you do not need to be fluent in water management jargon in order to gain from this reading!

I needed to purchase more books about the environment. This seemed to fit the bill.

I bought this a a reference for a paper on water scarcity. It is well-written, not at all dull. Mr. Richter is an excellent author. This work made it easier to understand drier authors who said exactly the same thing, only not as well. This book is proof positive that critical information need not be dull.

Great read for people who are aware of some of our current water problems in many parts of Africa. Good advice and sensible thinking evident in this highly readable book.

Sustainability is a word we here often these days. We like to think that, as a species, we can sustain our existence. We are really in trouble. Brian Richter has addressed at least an aspect of sustainability in his new book, Chasing Water. People wonder how we can simply run out of water with vast oceans and enormous fresh water lakes. Even in an age of superlative technology, we cannot keep supply up with usage. Richter outlines seven principles of sustainability with demand. The US is one of the few places in the world that use as much water on lawns as we do on ourselves. As a consequence of excessive usage, we are on the verge of bankrupting the system, says Richter. The author argues extensively on behalf of water conservation. And as expected, government erects obstacles. Richter believes that through cooperation and education there's light at the end of the tunnel if we can overcome political differences. I applaud the author's efforts to tackle a topic so illusive. It's easy to forget how essential water is for human existence. Richter takes a bold step forward to air out the dirty laundry. The big question remains: will we succeed?

Accessible and engaging, Brian Richter's Chasing Water is a valuable contribution to the field of

water resources management that reminds us our actions have long-term consequences affecting the freshwater available for generations to come.

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