

As climate change continues to exacerbate water risks, more and more companies seek a clear course of action to accelerate their positive impact on water targets.

WHAT IS NPWI?

Net Positive Water Impact (NPWI) is achieved when a company's **contributions continually exceed** direct operational footprint impacts in **all relevant water-stressed basins** relative to the **three water stress dimensions**.

A basin is considered **water-stressed** when it does not meet sustainable thresholds relative to **access, quality, and/or availability**.

AVAILABILITY
Global water **deficit could reach 40%** by 2030.

ACCESS
1 in 4 people in the world lack infrastructure to access water.

QUALITY
80% of wastewater is discharged without adequate treatment.

WHY MAKE NPWI A CORPORATE PURPOSE

Net Positive Water Impact is an ambition for water stewardship at the **strategic level**.

FOCUS
Links enterprise ambitions to the greatest need.

BOOST
Expands both scope and depth.

ALIGN
Explicitly connects corporate ambition and efforts with SDG 6.

AT THE CORE OF NET POSITIVE WATER IMPACT

NPWI revolves around main principles that ensure its integrity.

4

BEING QUANTIFIABLE

against the three dimensions of water stress aligns NPWI with well-established methodologies and allows it to be measured via both short-term outputs and long-term outcomes.

BEING AMBITIOUS

manifests in water-stressed basins to create impact where it matters most.

BEING COLLECTIVE

is necessary to fully achieve NPWI and to build long-term resilience to climate impacts.

BEING HOLISTIC

is expressed through a combination of investments in its own direct operations and through collective action partnerships and initiatives within basins.

PATHWAYS TO NET POSITIVE WATER IMPACT

There are different ways to pursue Net Positive Water Impact. Each company will **find the journey that applies best** in its context.

BASIN BY BASIN

Address all impacts relative to access, quality, and availability in one basin.
Not full NPWI, but a meaningful step in the NPWI journey.

	ACCESS	QUALITY	AVAILABILITY
WATER-STRESSED BASINS	✓	✓	✓
NON-STRESSED BASIN(S)	N/A	N/A	N/A

NPWI **does not include** basins that are not under stress.

	ACCESS	QUALITY	AVAILABILITY
WATER-STRESSED BASINS			✓
NON-STRESSED BASIN(S)	N/A	N/A	N/A

BY DIMENSION

Address one water stress dimension in all priority basins.
Here there is NPWI relative to availability in all water-stressed basins where they operate.

MIXED APPROACH

NPWI journeys aren't always as clear-cut as these two examples. A company might seek to address impacts based on a combination of priority and/or opportunity.

	ACCESS	QUALITY	AVAILABILITY
WATER-STRESSED BASINS	✓	✓	N/A
NON-STRESSED BASIN(S)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Stressed basins may not be so in all three dimensions of water stress.

WHAT DOES FULL NPWI LOOK LIKE?



WATER RESILIENCE COALITION



	ACCESS	QUALITY	AVAILABILITY
WATER-STRESSED BASINS	✓	✓	✓
NON-STRESSED BASIN(S)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Water Resilience Coalition companies have pledged that by 2050 they will have a positive impact on access, availability, and quality relative to the footprint of direct operations in all water-stressed basins. A commitment that can only be achieved through collective action.

EXPERTLY SAID

Two years in the making, NPWI is a concept developed by experts from the CEO Water Mandate, the Pacific Institute, Ross Strategic, Bluerisk, Pegasys, WRI, The Nature Conservancy and many others. It has been adopted by the **SDG6 Ambition of the UN Global Compact** and by **28 Water Resilience Coalition companies**.

"If your largest impact lies outside your direct operations, then **you should consider including your value chain** into your initial assessment to make a credible claim to NPWI."
Paul Reig, Bluerisk

"Excluding different sized companies isn't in the spirit of the NPWI commitment. **Small companies can learn from others** in their sector."
Dr. Alexis Schäffler-Thomson, Pegasys

"In the NPWI journey, a fundamental first step is to identify priority basins and invest directly in them. **Impact is local, and so must be the investment.**"
Dr. Gregg Brill, Pacific Institute / CEO Water Mandate

"**NPWI encourages shared goals, metrics, and actions.** This collective thinking is essential to managing water as a complex and communal resource."
Colin Strong, World Resources Institute (WRI)

READY TO GO ON THE NPWI JOURNEY?

Visit the Water Resilience Coalition website:

www.ceowatermandate.org/resilience

CONNECT
Send us a direct message:
ceowatermandate@unglobalcompact.org

LEARN
Find out how companies are embarking on the NPWI journey.

JOIN
Be a part of the solution and join the Water Resilience Coalition!

The Water Resilience Coalition is an industry-driven, CEO-led initiative by the CEO Water Mandate, a partnership between the United Nations Global Compact and the Pacific Institute. It aims to elevate the long-term mounting crisis of global water stress and its connection to climate change to the top of the corporate agenda and to preserve the world's freshwater resources through collective action in water-stressed basins and through ambitious, quantifiable goals.