

10 WATER COMMONS PRINCIPLES



Through our co-creative fieldwork, On the Commons seeks to transform society's decision-making about water toward participatory, democratic, community-centered systems that value equity and sustainability as core values. Our work is based on the following ten water commons principles.

- 1.) Affirm water as a commons. It belongs to everyone and to no one exclusively, and must be passed on to future generations in sufficient volume and quality.
- 2.) Ensure that the earth and all of its ecosystems enjoy rights to water for their survival. Indeed, those ecosystems make human life possible.

- 3.) Conserve water as a social priority (enforced by law), including advocacy of drastic changes to industrial and agricultural practices.
- 4.) Treat watersheds, the source of our water, as a commons, as well as the water itself.
- 5.) Encourage local, community management of water while legally requiring users to respect upstream and downstream neighbors' rights.
- 6.) Create or reaffirm trans-boundary agreements that respect water sovereignty for all communities and nations.
- 7.) Provide everyone with water as a basic principle of justice, not as an act of charity.
- 8.) Ensure public delivery and fair pricing of water.
- 9.) Promote the right to water as a principle in national constitutions, laws, and a UN covenant.
- 10.) Employ innovative legal tools to protect water and manage water as a commons, including public and community trusts.

Source: <http://www.onthecommons.org/work/10-water-commons-principles>