Special Issue

Urban Water Pricing Balancing Financial Viability and Social Fairness

Message from the Guest Editors

Urban water utilities increasingly face a complex and persistent dilemma: how to set water service prices that ensure financial sustainability while maintaining socially equitable access for all consumers.

Balancing these opposing imperatives requires a nuanced approach that integrates cost-reflective pricing with targeted social protection mechanisms. Innovative tariff structures, such as increasing block tariffs, lifeline rates, and income-adjusted subsidies, offer potential pathways to reconcile economic efficiency with social fairness. At the same time, transparent governance, stakeholder engagement, and data-driven decision-making are essential for maintaining public trust.

In this context, urban water pricing becomes more than a technical exercise; it is a negotiation between ethics and economic realism. The challenge for modern utilities is to design pricing frameworks that secure financial resilience while safeguarding universal and equitable access to water services in rapidly evolving urban environments.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Vasilis Kanakoudis
Prof. Dr. Francesco De Paola
Prof. Dr. Evangelos Keramaris

Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 December 2026

Water

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.0
CiteScore 6.0

mdpi.com/si/265645

Water
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
water@mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/water

Water

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.0
CiteScore 6.0

mdpi.com/journal/water

About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

In the context of global changes, the sustainable management of water cycles, going from global and regional water cycles to urban, industrial and agricultural water cycles, plays a very important role on the water resources and on their relationships with food, energy, biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and human health. *Water* invites authors to provide innovative original full articles, critical reviews and timely short communications and to propose special issues devoted to new technological and scientific domains and to interdisciplinary approaches of the water cycles. We ensure a critical review process and a quick turnaround between submission and final decision.

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Jean-Luc PROBST
Centre de Recherche sur la Biodiversité l'Environnement (CRBE) UMR CNRS/UPS/INPT/IRD, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), University of Toulouse, Campus ENSAT, Auzeville Tolosane, Toulouse, France

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), Ei Compendex, GEOBASE, GeoRef, PubAg, AGRIS, CAPlus / SciFinder, Inspec, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Water Resources) / CiteScore - Q1 (Aquatic Science)

MDPI