

"Singapore Charts New Water Resilience Path with Clean Energy and Urban Renewal" Minister Chan Chun Sing

18 March 2026 | News

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Singapore is embarking on the next chapter of its water resilience journey by integrating clean, renewable energy and innovative urban renewal strategies. Speaking at Singapore World Water Day 2026, Coordinating Minister for Public Services and Minister for Defence Chan Chun Sing underscored the nation's evolving water story, from its humble beginnings with three reservoirs in 1965 to today's sophisticated four-tap water supply system.

The Singapore Government, PUB, and MSE seek to collaborate with community and business partners to transform constraints into opportunities, inspire future generations, and create a water-resilient future that serves as a global inspiration.

Singapore's water journey has evolved from three reservoirs and two water sources in 1965 to over 17 reservoirs, four water taps (domestic, imported, desalination, and recycled), and two-thirds of its land as water catchment areas today. This progress reflects ongoing efforts to overcome water challenges, though new opportunities and challenges lie ahead.

The city state faces two **key challenges** in its water management: "*reducing energy dependency in water processing by developing energy-efficient technologies*" and "*managing water demand across households and businesses*". Businesses are encouraged to adopt water-efficient practices, as this can provide a competitive advantage and support Singapore's goal of leading globally in sustainable water and energy efficiency.

While Singapore has made remarkable progress—expanding its water catchment area to two-thirds of its land and pioneering technologies like desalination and water recycling—new challenges loom. The shift from water dependency to energy dependency poses a critical hurdle. Mr. Chan emphasized that while the country has the technology to process its water needs, energy efficiency is now the Achilles heel. For the next 50 years, clean, sustainable, and renewable energy will

be Singapore's existential challenge, just as water was for the past 50 years.

To address this, Mr. Chan called on engineers and businesses to develop energy-efficient water technologies that minimize electricity consumption. He noted that climate change and global energy supply concerns, heightened by conflicts like the war in the Middle East, make this transition even more urgent. Beyond supply-side solutions, managing water demand is equally vital. Households and businesses must play their part in reducing water consumption, with businesses encouraged to adopt water-efficient processes as a competitive advantage.

The government is supporting these efforts through initiatives like the Water Efficiency Fund, which provides up to S\$5 million per project to drive water efficiency, and the SG Water Saver Programme for 1- to 3-room HDB households. Additionally, the Singapore Watermark Awards 2026 will recognize water-conscious businesses and communities.

Urban renewal and coastal protection present new opportunities to strengthen water resilience. The Long Island project, for instance, will not only create new land for housing and industries but also incorporate a new reservoir to enhance water storage capacity. Similarly, HDB's urban renewal efforts across the nation could expand water catchment areas beyond the current two-thirds coverage.

Mr. Chan concluded by calling on all stakeholders—government agencies, businesses, and the community—to work together to turn constraints into opportunities. He emphasized that Singapore's water story is one of resilience and innovation, and with collective effort, the nation can inspire the world while ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

Climate Adaptation and Urban Renewal Opportunities: Singapore is leveraging long-term coastal protection and urban renewal plans to enhance water harvesting, improve processing efficiency, and expand water catchment areas, exemplified by the Long Island project and HDB town redevelopment.

Government Support for Water Efficiency: The Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE) and PUB are promoting water efficiency through initiatives like the Water Efficiency Fund, SG Water Saver Programme, and Singapore Watermark Awards 2026 to encourage sustainable water use and innovation.

These efforts reinforce Singapore's commitment to tackling water and energy challenges through clean energy adoption, efficient water management, and forward-looking urban planning.