

# Infrastructure & Government

**Sao Paulo dehydrates; the city/state suffers because of a water crisis. What can the government do to improve the infrastructure?**

**Objective** Members of the LinkedIn discussion group '[Sao Paulo is running out of water](#)', come from all over the world. They all have large networks and want specialized people in their network to get involved in order to get more knowledge, power and world wide support and tackle this world issue of increasing dehydration.

## **No refill**

According to weather for casters at Climatempo, the spring season that started in September will bring rains below historical averages and not enough to refill basins. The El Niño rains that caused floods in southern Brazil will not travel far north into São Paulo in order to help refill reservoirs ([Sergio Correa de Jesus MFA](#))

**Julie Ann Futcher**

## **City wide infrastructure plan**

Haddad's new (progressive) city wide plan, although this is from an urban energy management /modification of the urban climate perspective (see point 5 <http://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/julie-futcher-we-cannot-assess-skyscrapers-in-isolation/8668340>.article and upcoming article in RICS) - I would really like to get more involved with the water management side of the infrastructure .... any offers will be seriously considered!

## **Urban climatology**

Urban climatology is concerned with the huge range of interdependent topics that influence every physical aspect of the urban system... including the air and water cycle ... check out IAUC at [www.urban-climate.org](http://www.urban-climate.org) for some more background...there is lots on SP there also.

**Maria Adriana Gebauer**

## **Integrated approach**

**Munoz**

The solution should come joining together private initiative with a strong regulation and a schedule to go through coming from the governance or public sector. Most of the improvement in the Thames River was accomplished through a joint action and intelligent interventions that integrated all the aspects of environmental planning: economic, social, environmental condition, community demands,

legal regulations, public and private benefits, and so on. The issue is that here is urgent to intervene in this holistic way and to start now, without lose a precious time in which S.P. and its citizens need a proper answer...

**Maria Adriana Gebauer Munoz**

#### **'Glorietas' as a reservoir of water**

It seems urgent to install a recycling culture, not only the use of rainwater but the recycling of domestic use of the water. I live now in Guadalajara, Mexico, and surprise me that being the city organized around what is called "**glorietas**" in each of one normally you have a public fountain, when it rains a huge amount of water is lost through the drainage. Why is not possible to propose a system where these "**glorietas**" fountains could act as reservoir of water, of course with the adequate treatment? Like this I am sure Sao Paulo could act through the layout of the city and use it as a way to rationalize the use and accumulation of the wastewater you have in the current city functionment.

**Maria Alice van Genne-Bogado Fernandes**

#### **Technical solutions**

Governments must use all kind of known techniques (architectural and urban) to:

- clean rivers (make them live again!)
- recycle the (industrial) waste water
- apply excellent sewage treatment
- apply excellent (domestic) sewage/rain (water) treatment and recycle it for reuse
- green roofs wherever possible
- capture of rainfall; etc.
- Above all: **educate people** on how to spare water; how to use it well!

We know that one third of the water treated for human use gets lost through leaks  
The deforestation, thus, belongs to the water cycle that affects SP

**Claudia Bitran, PP, AICP**

You may want to look up info on a recent event held in Sao Paulo, focused on this topic. I was not able to attend but heard there were really rich discussions involving City and State officials and other professionals who shared best practices and successful efforts from other parts of the world. Here is a link to the event's agenda but there may be videos of the different sessions somewhere on the web.

<http://www.nossasaopaulo.org.br/agenda-cidada/arqfuturo-i-cidade-e-agua-i-sao-paulo-23-e-24-de-setembro>

**Sergio Correa de Jesus MFA**

**The important rule of the Mayor**

Mayors are increasingly seen as having immense relevance in world matters, understandably so! They can be catalysts for political and environmental change. They are the best equipped with arguments

**Maria Alice van Genne-  
Bogado Fernandes**

**Listen to technicians**

We do have fantastic technicians or experts in the subject to be discussed. Unfortunately technicians have little power to influence politicians. These are the ones with power to introduce changes, as they (supposedly) represent the will of ordinary people, that is, the population that lives in a certain city or area. So there must be a better connection, a better communication between politicians and technicians.

I am not talking about those technicians that work for the government (I was once a public servant!). It has to be a combined effort from everyone that is an expert on a certain field. Not only at one single moment, or when a crisis arises. But on a continuous base.

**Long-term goals**

The proposed solutions should be renewed every time a better approach appeared and, certainly, always focused on a long-term goal. In countries like Brazil, there are wonderful technicians, with great ideas that are never heard. Many of their good propositions are put aside in order to attend other interests that have nothing to do with sustainability or even with the main goal.

**Start with the smaller cities**

There are cities of all sizes and facing different stages of problems that are common to all of them. Huge ones, like São Paulo, Mexico, etc. and several others much smaller. In fact, each one differs from the other in many ways. Therefore, their problems have to be addressed by different ways. It is quite understandable. But when they all began, nobody had a good idea of how big and bad they would become. Why not avoid the mistakes that we detect in huge cities, while possible, considering small and medium cities? Medium and small cities are much more flexible to be corrected and at a much lower cost.

**Best practices**

Meanwhile we would continue to try to find solutions for big cities. The size of their problems are so big, they are so complex that we need all the power we can find. But, it would be good enough if we could avoid the multiplication of the awful cities we already have

**Jit Kumar Gupta**

**Renovation and Repair the water system**

Maybe water supply system needs a renovation and repair- because studies has established that it costs only 3% to repair an existing system as against creating additional capacity-gained out of minimizing wastage on water.