

Distillation plants are most economical when coupled with a source of low-cost energy. Low-cost water will be dependent on the ability of desalting plants to be closely integrated with large-scale energy sources.

The cost of desalted water is now such that desalting can be used in limited circumstances if the need for the water justifies the cost. As technology is developed further, the competitive position of desalted water will increase and will offer the possibility of a lower cost water supply to communities that would otherwise be forced to a higher cost alternative.

Coastal communities have available the option of using desalted sea water. Many communities have access to brackish water sources as well that desalting can upgrade. The technology of desalting, especially by membrane processes (electrodialysis and reverse osmosis) complement the technology of waste water treatment and renovation that is being developed by other government agencies at the Federal, State and local level.