

It has been estimated that by the year 2000, the cost of desalted sea water can be reduced to 20 cents per 1000 gallons in a 100 mgd plant by a suitably scheduled program of research and development of desalting technology coupled with an applications oriented effort to integrate desalted water into water resources planning. The cost of desalted water in other size plants and using other desalting technologies would also be correspondingly reduced by this program.

The most visible benefits of such a program are the cost savings to consumers who would have a cheaper water supply than they might otherwise have had. These benefits are believed to be in excess of the cost of the whole desalting program. When the program is complete, it is expected that the developed technology will have been fully taken over by industry.

The suggested program builds on the past achievements and momentum in the technology of desalting. It will have other real but less readily quantifiable benefits than those mentioned above, such as the ability of low-cost desalting to provide drought proofing for communities, the deferment