
GLOBALIZATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT: THE CHANGING VALUE OF WATER

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PATTERNS OF URBAN GROWTH AND WATER CONSUMPTION TRENDS IN THE METROPOLITAN REGION OF BARCELONA

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ABSTRACT: During the last two decades, the metropolitan region of Barcelona has experienced important changes in the processes of urban development in which the traditional, Mediterranean "compact city" recedes in front of the modern, more Anglo-Saxon in style "disperse city". Thus, the city of Barcelona and the immediate, large cities located in its vicinity are losing population to medium and small towns of the metropolitan region where low density housing (including condominiums) equipped with gardens and swimming pools constitute now a substantial part of the built environment. In the poster we focus on the effects that such changes may have on domestic water consumption. From the analysis of demographic, housing, and economic data for the 163 municipalities included in the metropolitan region, and from the analysis of recent trends in water consumption for the same localities we will attempt to illustrate how this trends point towards substantial increases in water consumption in the region for which the current supply structure may prove inadequate.

KEYWORDS: Domestic consumption, Housing trends, Water supply.

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