



Group 6: Is water a social or economic good? Water rights, costs, access, and affordability

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Issue: State-Wide Income-Based Water Affordability Plan

Background Notes

- Water affordability plan based on income-level, not water usage; for example, in Philadelphia, they have the following tiers:
 - o 150% of poverty level = pay 4% of monthly income towards water
 - o 100% of poverty level = pay 3% of monthly income towards water
 - o 50% of poverty level = pay 2% of monthly income towards water
- A percent income payment program was created for Detroit, and passed by City Council in 2005
 - o It was never implemented
- DWSD doesn't know the details on people who get water shutoffs, such as income level
 - o They only know if someone hasn't paid their water bill

What can the University do to address the issue?

- Law School - Clinic – Foreground legality, pose water as a human right
 - o Look into City Council passing and not implementing proposal
 - o Look into Hedley Amendment and Prop A
- Public Health – Conduct a health impact assessment to predict the health benefits of implementing a water affordability plan
- U-M needs to better recognize interdisciplinary, community-based work