

Industrial Water Challenges: New Technologies to Watch



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The
Deciding
Factor

FOOD

ENERGY

MANUFACTURING

**How do we use less water?
(Draw less water from external sources)**

**How do we improve our wastewater
management?**

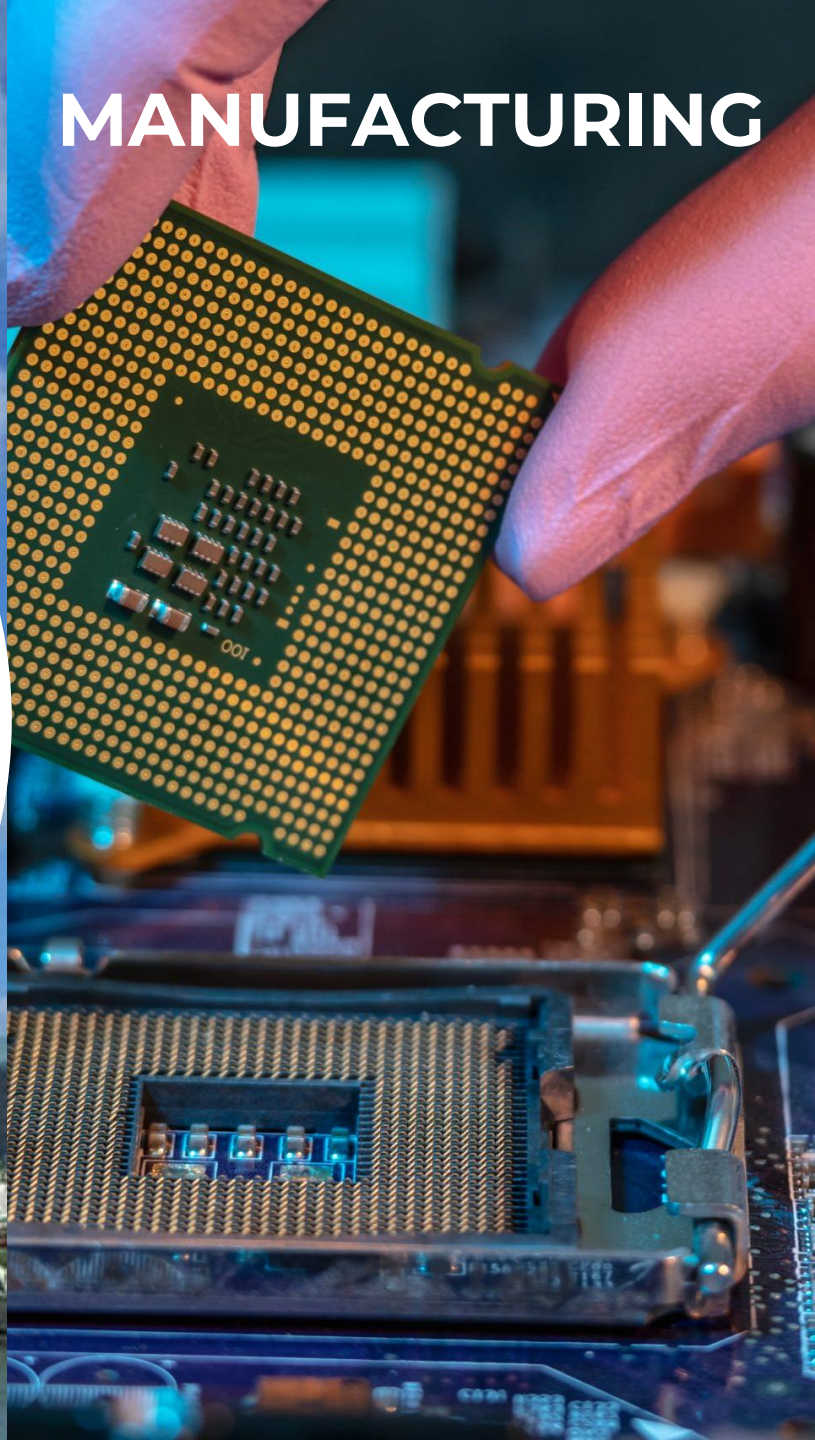
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**Water
=
Productivity**

Water is an uptime issue for industry

INTERNATIONAL • TSMC

Taiwan's drought is exposing just how much water chipmakers like TSMC use (and reuse)

BY EAMON BARRETT

June 12, 2021 12:00 AM EDT

Bengaluru: Water crisis shakes India's Silicon Valley

6 days ago

Share

Heat and drought: A challenge for production and logistics at the Ludwigshafen site

BASF
We create chemistry

CLIMATE • EXTREME WEATHER

Mexico's Industrial Hub Suffers Weeks-Long Water Cutoff Amid Drought



Agenda

1 | **Industrial water-use challenges**

2 | Emerging technology trends

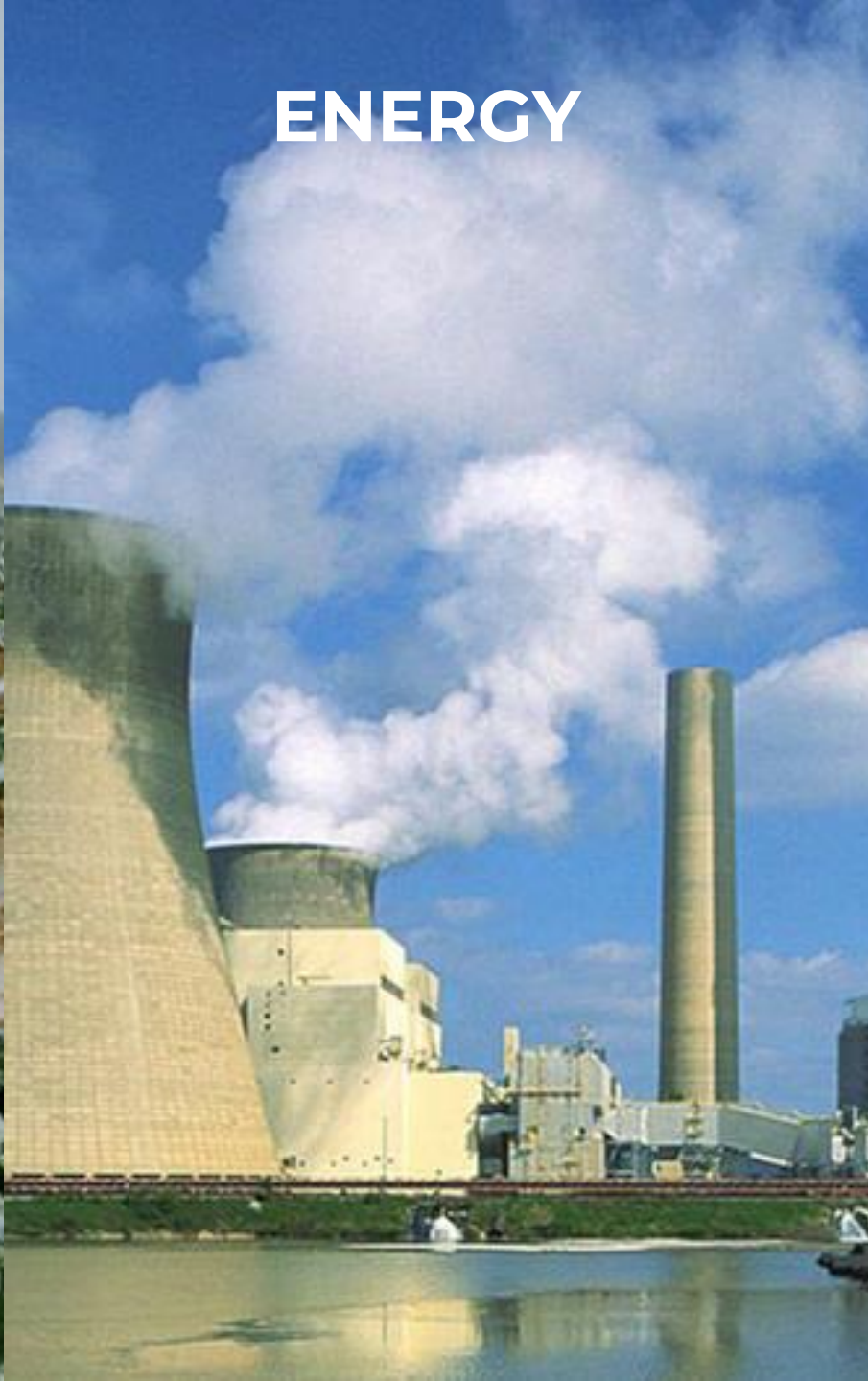
3 | Funding water innovation

4 | Outlook and recommendations

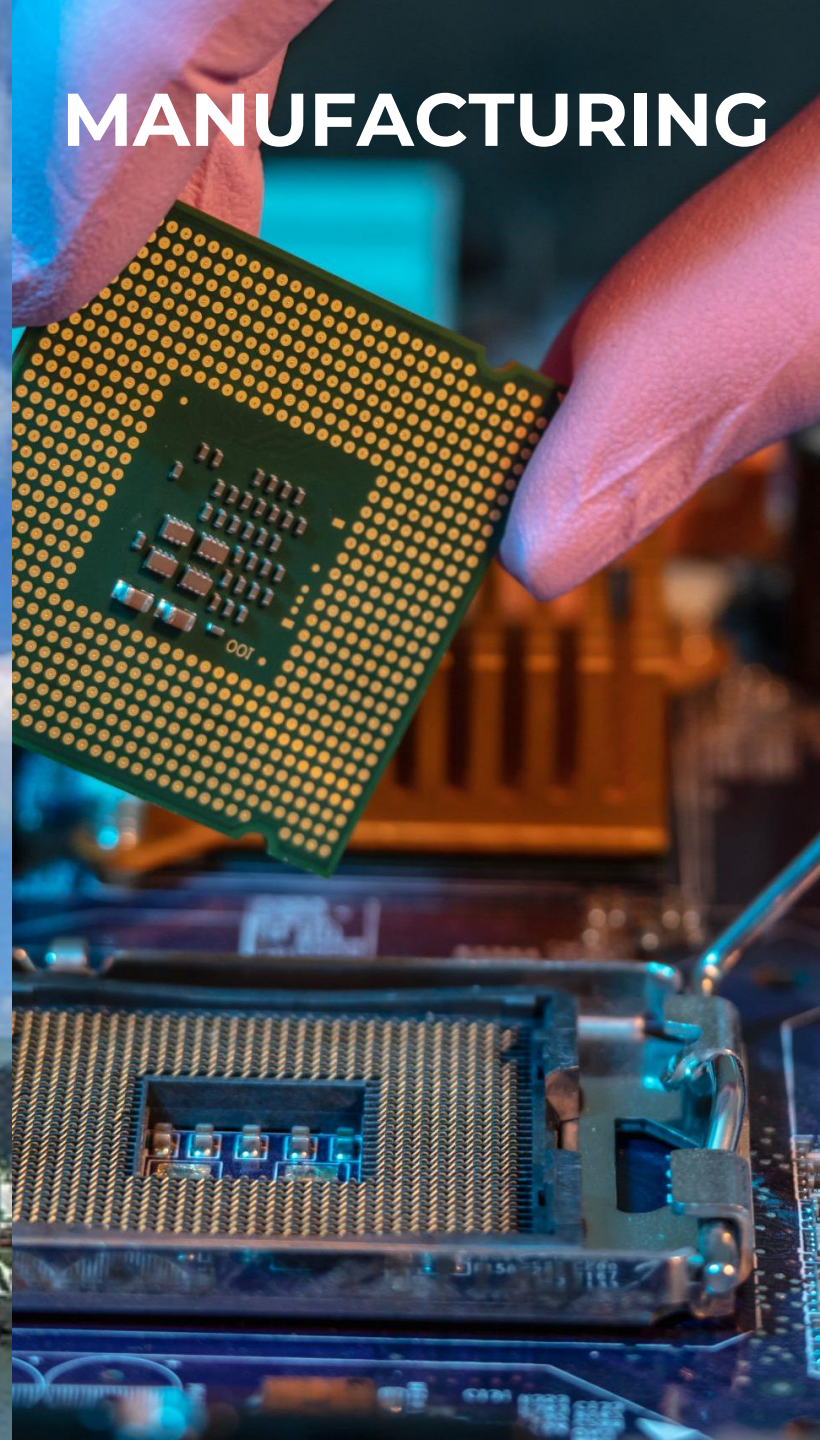
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ENERGY

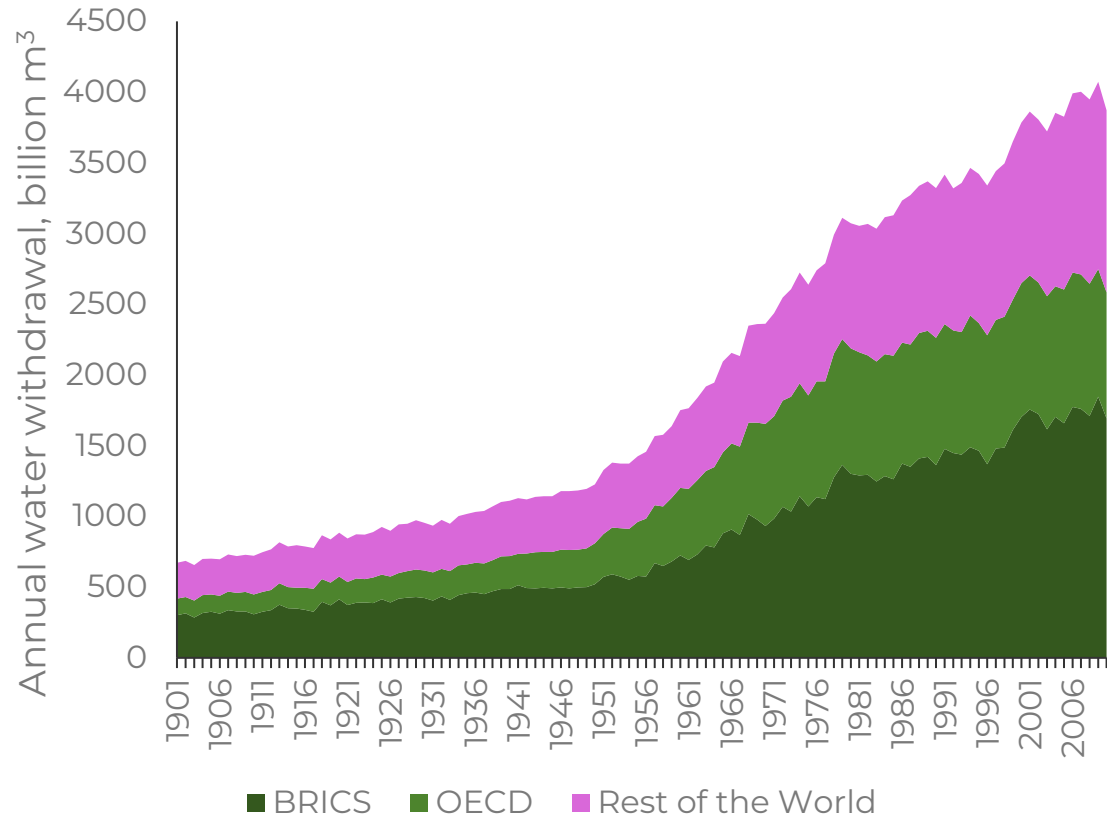


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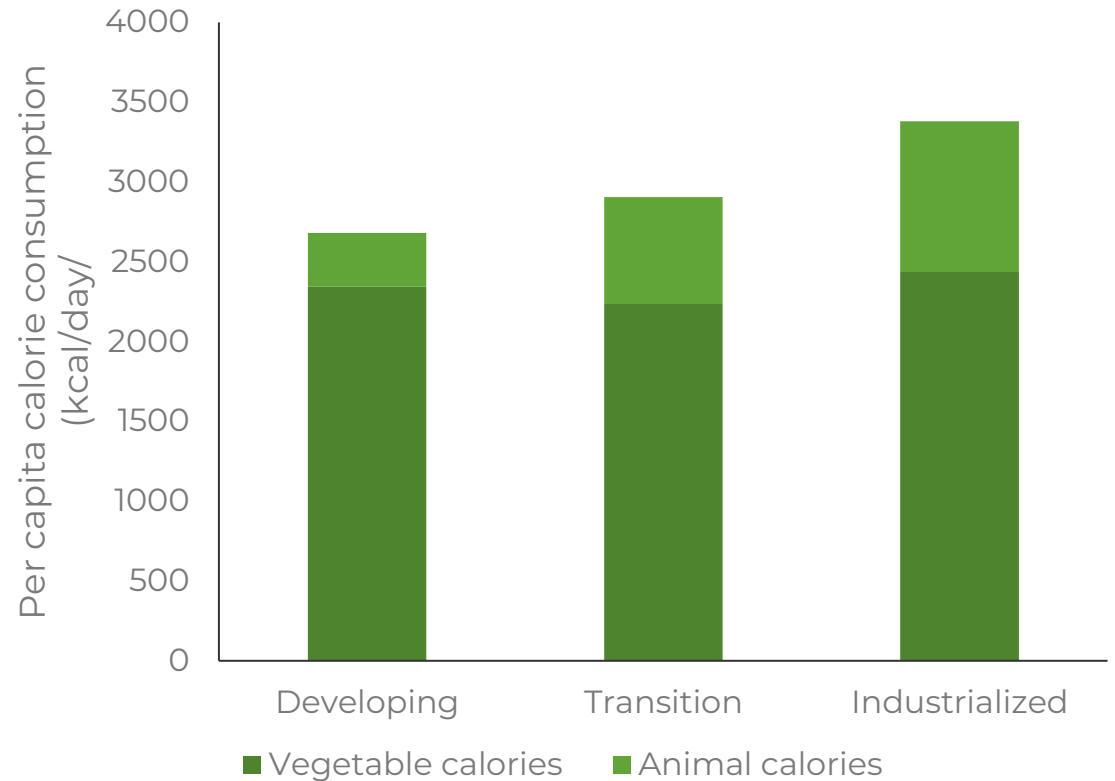


Water-food nexus: Industrialization leads to increasing calorie consumption with higher water-, energy-, and land-use requirements

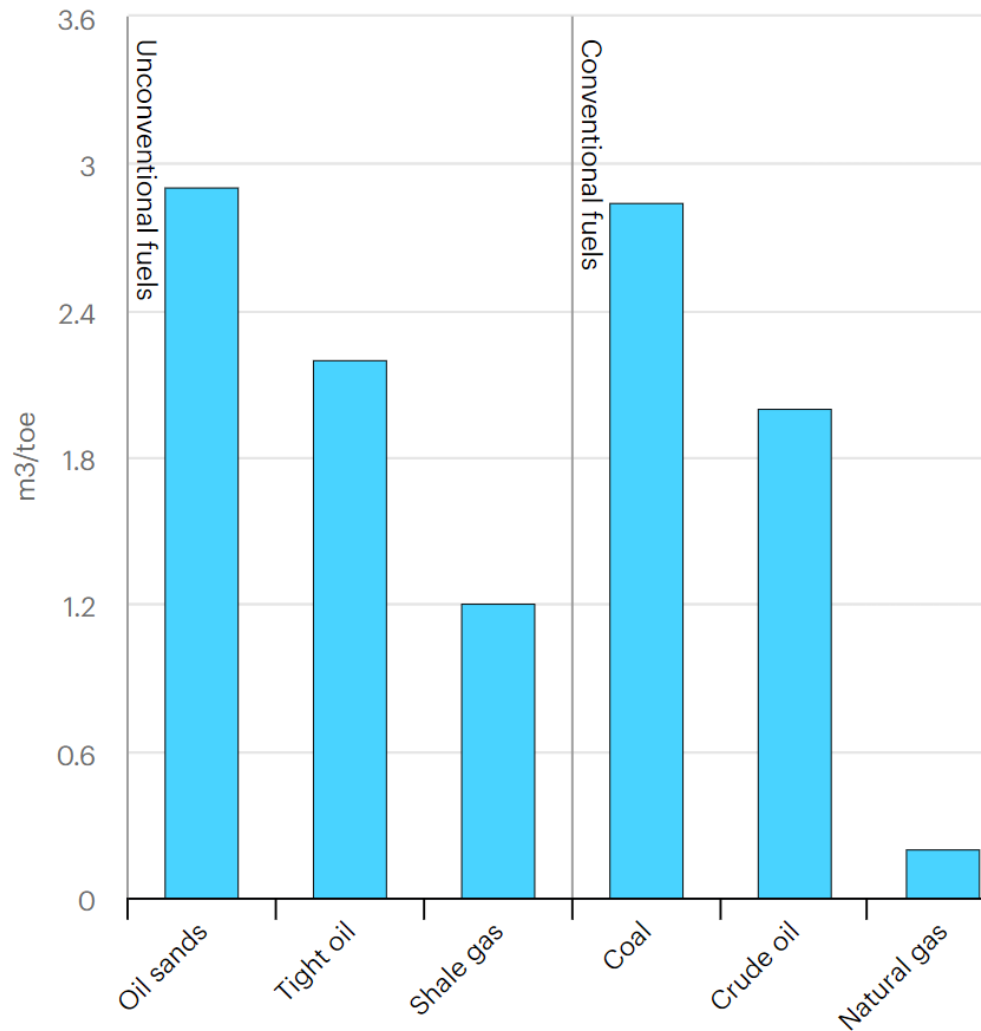
Global Water Consumption Increases with Development



Industrialized Countries Consume 56% More Animal Calories Than Developing Countries



Water-energy nexus: Conventional power generation has always been a heavy water user

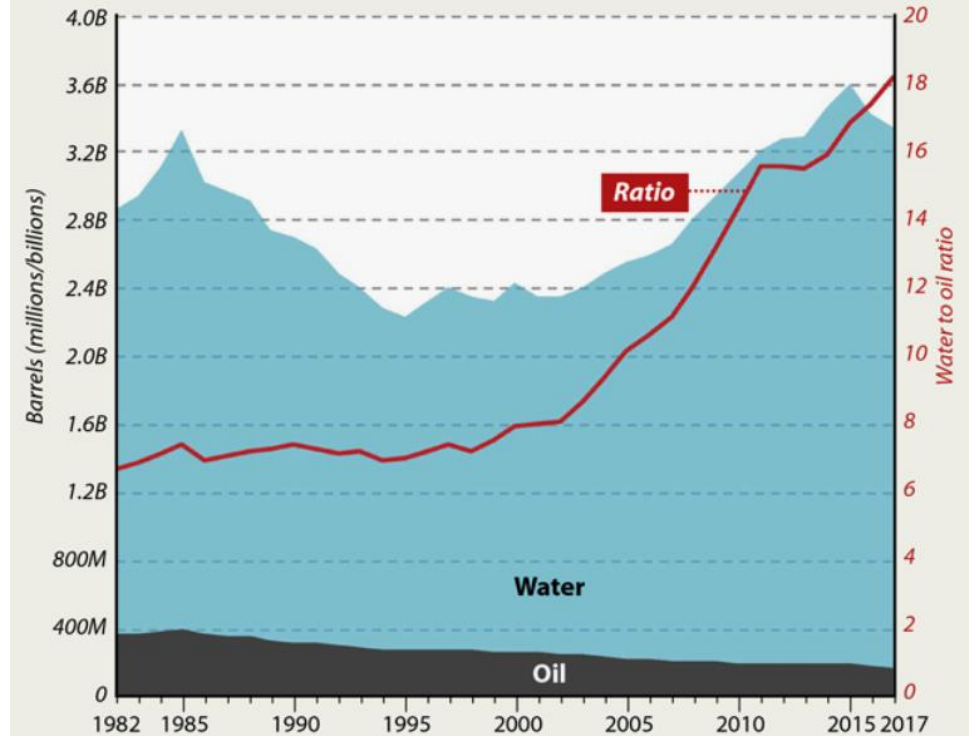


Oil's Unquenchable Thirst

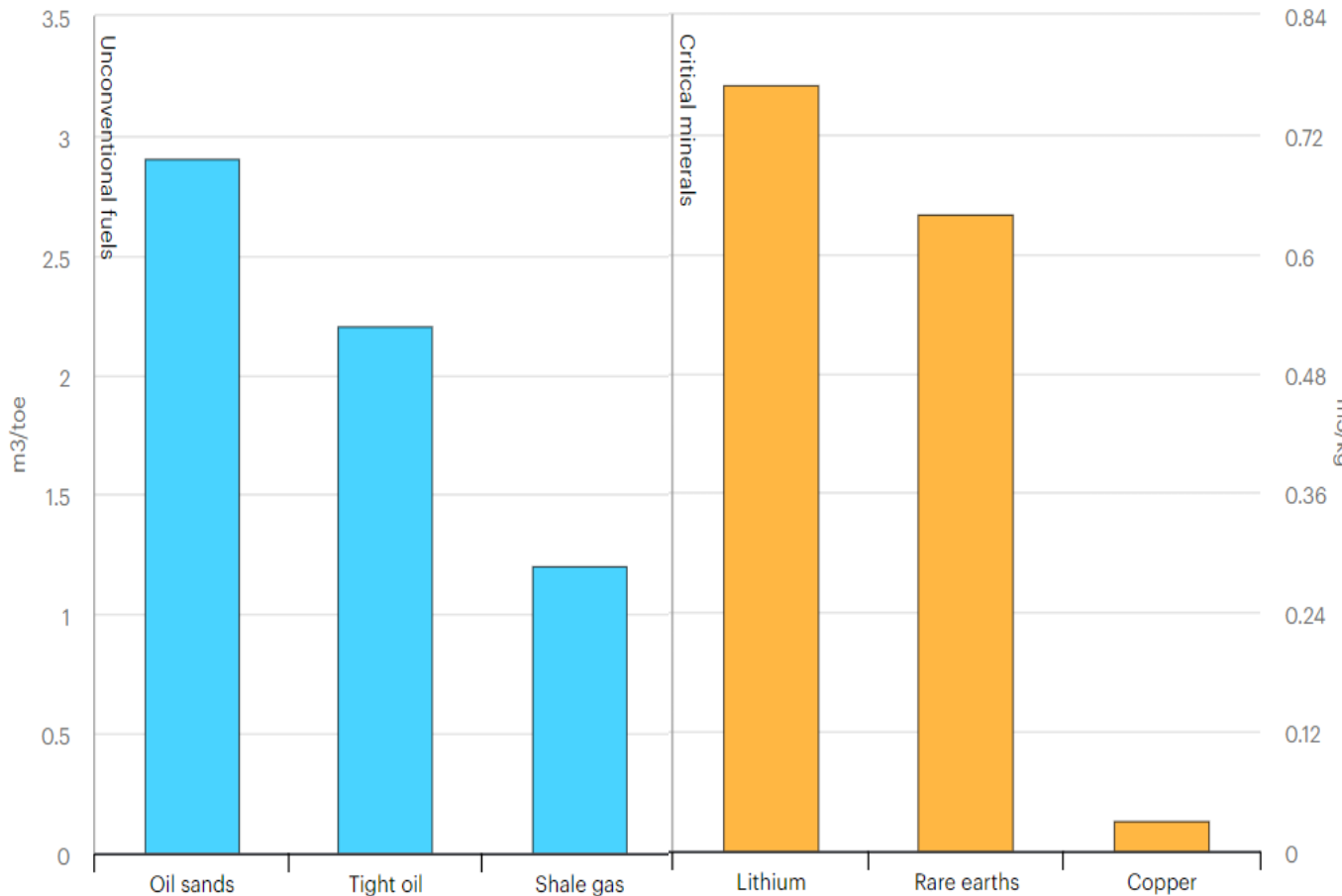
Extracting Kern County's famously heavy crude from the region's aging oil reserves requires more and more water to recover a barrel of oil, producing ever-more wastewater.

CALIFORNIA AVERAGE PRODUCED WATER TO OIL RATIO

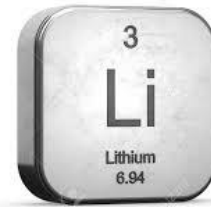
In billions of barrels, 1982-2017



Water-energy-material nexus: Critical minerals demand equal if not more water to power the energy transition

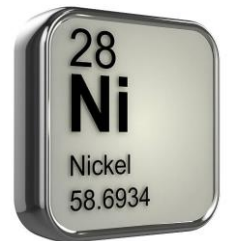


Annual demand for electric vehicle (EV) batteries will grow from 340 GWh to over 3,500 GWh by 2030

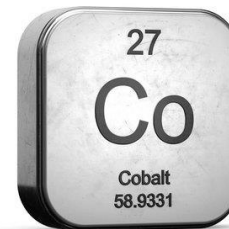


+50 mines

+60 mines

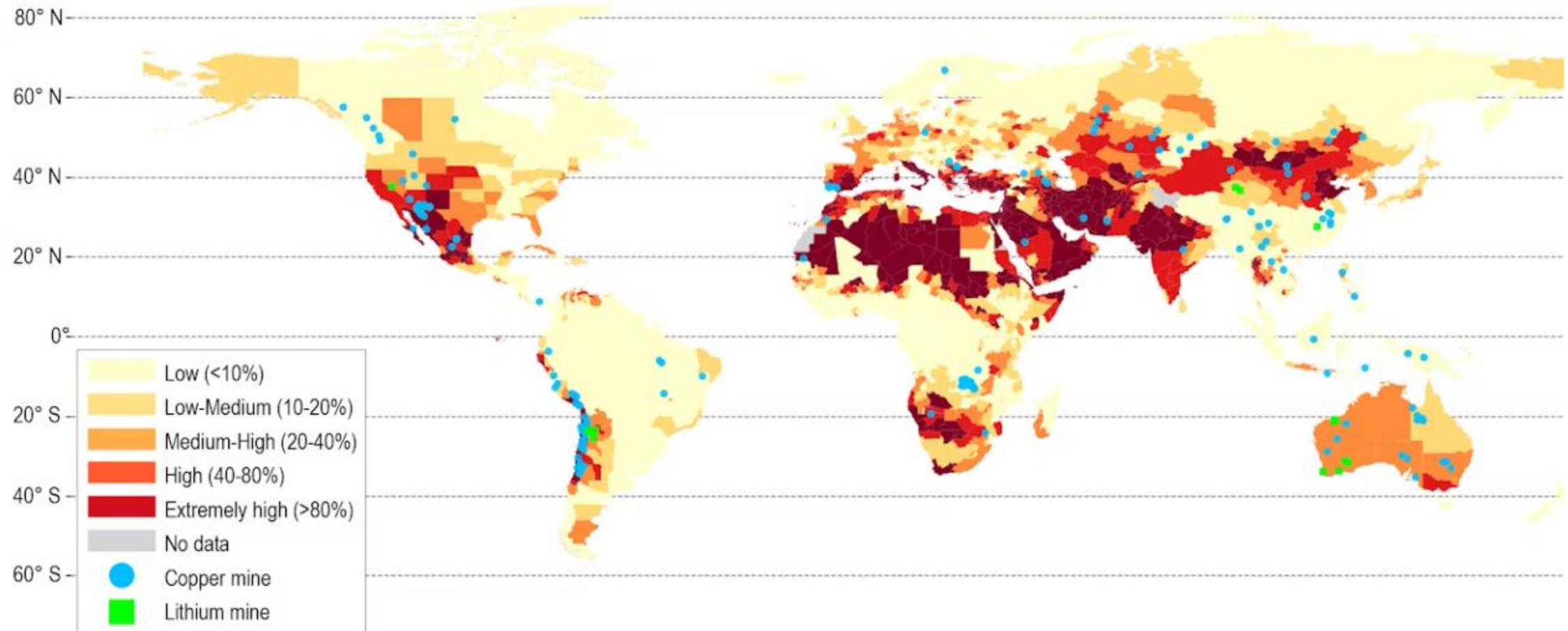


+17 mines

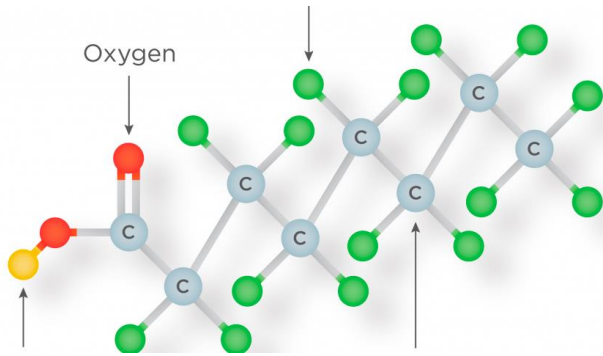


Companies (and mines) are operating in water-stressed conditions

Location of copper and lithium mines and water stress levels, 2020

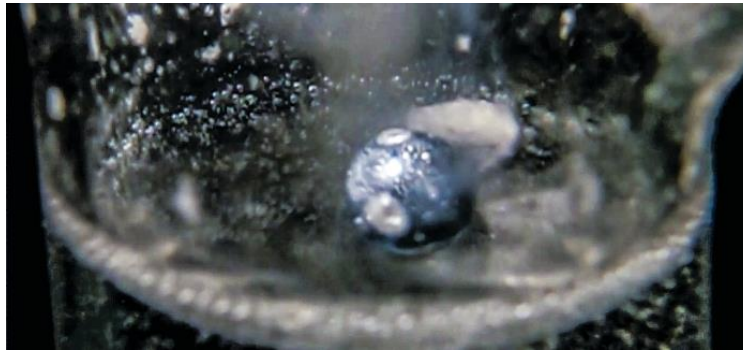


Emerging and tightening regulations lead to higher cost of operations



Contaminants of Emerging Concern

- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in chemicals and electronics manufacturing
- Metals in mining, metals finishing, and automotive
- Micropollutants



Wastewater Disposal

- Rising costs of discharge permits
- Limitations on what factories can discharge
- Operating farther away from disposal options, increased trucking and tipping costs



Reuse/Recycling Mandate

- U.S., India, and China implementing sector-specific zero liquid discharge (ZLD)

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Lux groups innovations in industrial water management into 6 categories

1 MEMBRANES

From top to bottom: corporates, startups

2 ELECTROCHEMICAL SEPARATION

From top to bottom: corporates, startups

3 OXIDATION

From top to bottom: corporates, startups

4 ADSORPTION

From top to bottom: corporates, startups

5 BIOLOGICAL

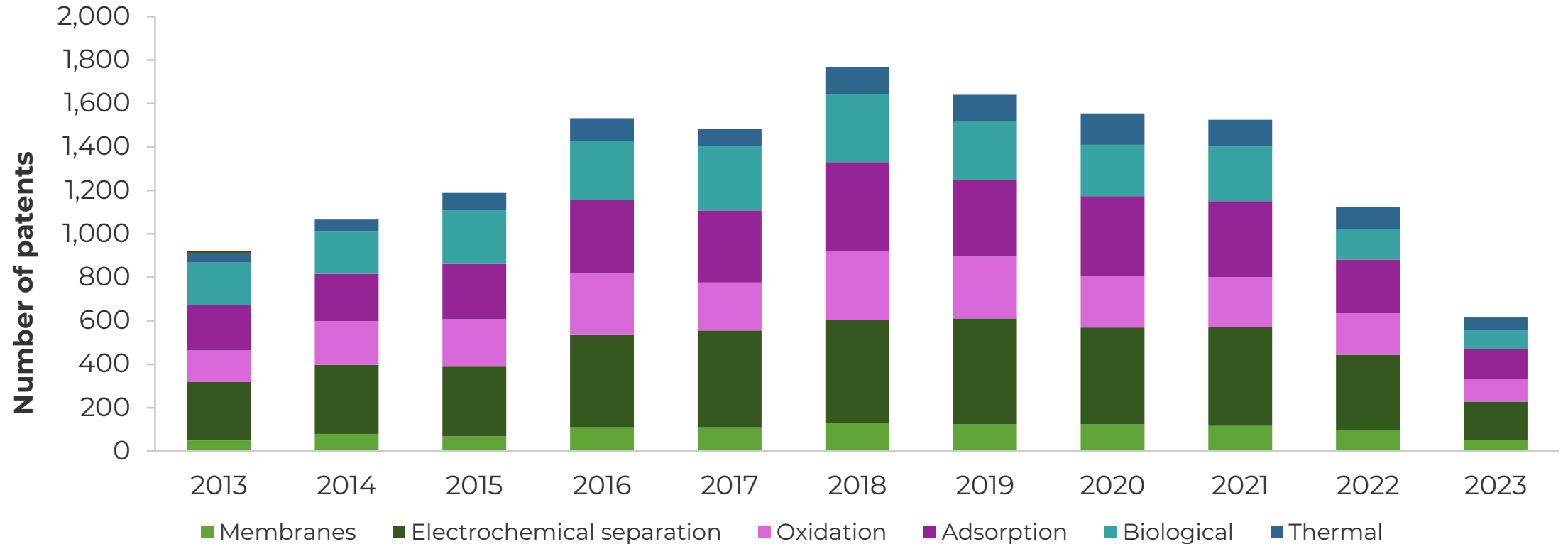
From top to bottom: corporates, startups

6 THERMAL

From top to bottom: corporates, startups

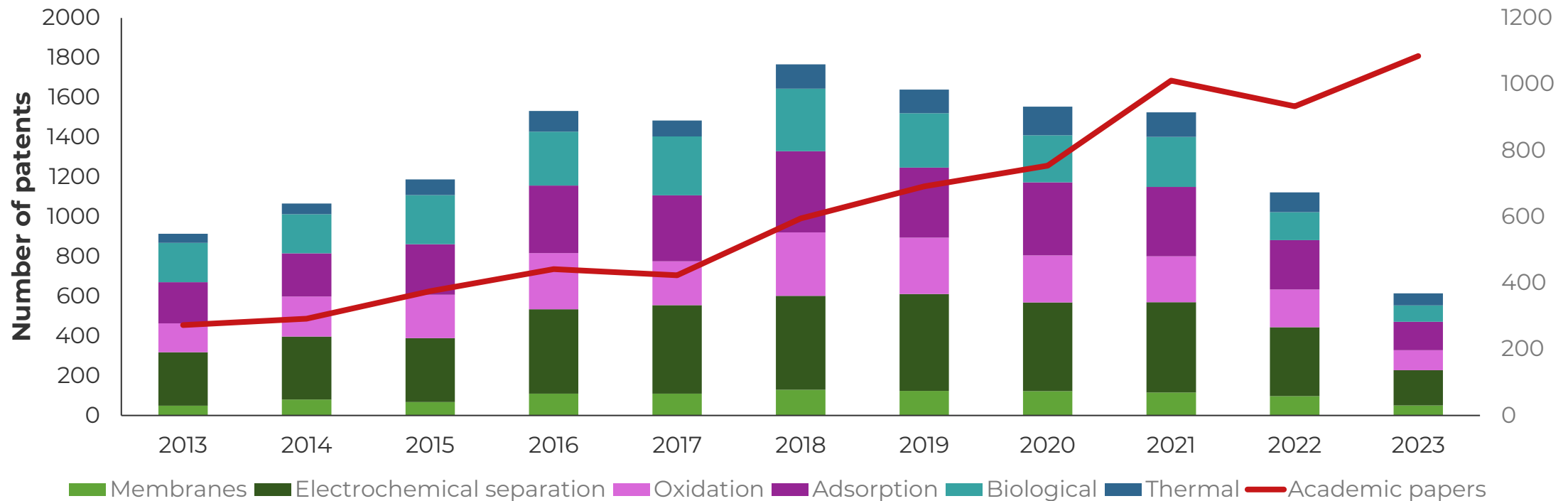
Patent activity suggests an increase in commercial activity; technology innovation bright spots emerge in key areas

Industrial Wastewater Management Patents by Technology

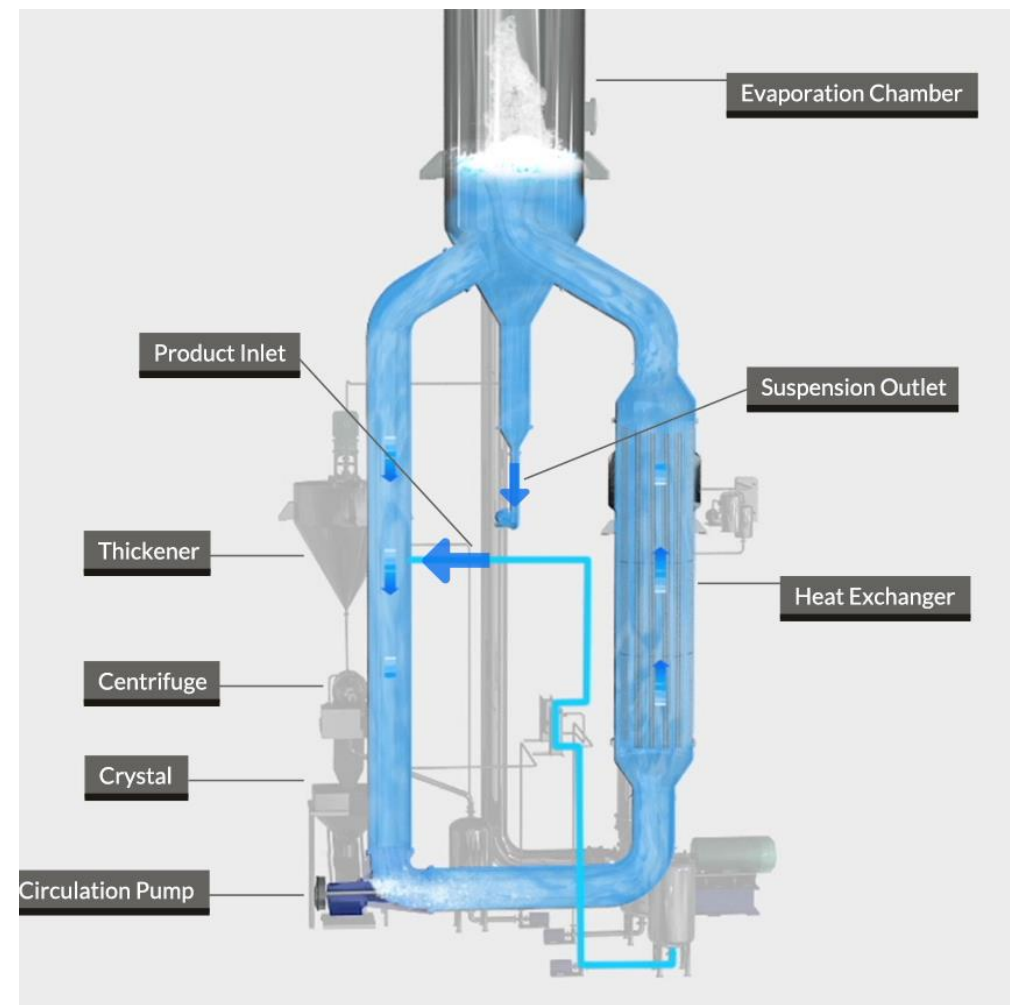


Patent activity suggests an increase in commercial activity; technology innovation bright spots emerge in key areas

Industrial Wastewater Management Patents by Technology



Electrified separation uproots energy-guzzling thermal technologies for brine concentration and ZLD



CASE STUDY

ZLD and resource recovery using membrane distillation

Memsift Innovations reduces energy by 65% in comparison to evaporator crystallizers. Lowered disposal volumes and hence costs by 90%. Valorizes waste by recovery of nickel sulfate (~10.2 tonne/y of nickel).

Carbon footprint nickel for concentrate (11.5 kg CO₂/kg nickel) is lower than for mined nickel; decreases CO₂ emissions by about 71 tonne/y of CO₂.



Membrane distillation (MD) has had a history of false starts due to poor membrane performance. In Memsift, we're seeing a revival of MD as a contender for small- to medium-scale ZLD.



Bioreactor innovations go mainstream to decentralize wastewater



CASE STUDY

Bioelectrochemical wastewater treatment for food & beverage manufacturers

Aquacycl's microbial fuel cell technology is a self-powered, on-site bioelectrochemical wastewater treatment solution.

The company specializes in hard-to-treat organic waste streams that typically represent less than 3% of all the flows at a manufacturing facility but 60% to 80% of the sewer discharge fee.



The value proposition for Aquacycl's customers is discharge permit compliance and reduced costs from waste hauling, disposal, and energy use (to treat such highly concentrated organic wastes). It saves customers around 20% to 60% in net sewer discharge costs



Emerging tech to address contaminants of concern, especially PFASs



HALT PFAS destruction gains traction

Aquagga's hydrothermal alkaline treatment (HALT) technology eliminates PFASs at lower temperatures with benign byproducts

Process to function at lower pressures and temperatures than alternatives like supercritical water oxidation and incineration.



PFAS disposal through incineration can cost between USD 1,000/tonne and USD 2,000/tonne and emit toxic gases like hydrogen fluoride. Aquagga offers a lower-cost solution for on-site PFAS destruction.



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FUNDING WATER

Climate tech funding decreased 30% to USD 32 billion in 2023

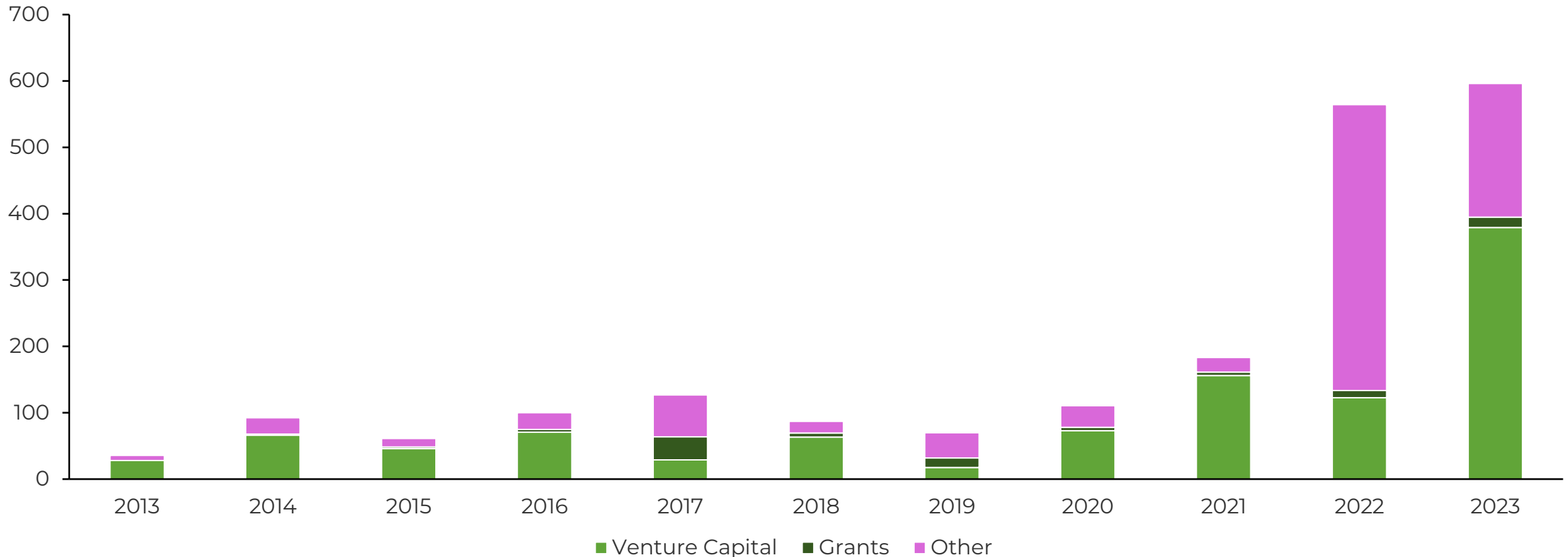
Water was less than 1%



Water investments are booming, breaking a decade-long drought in funding

Industrial Water Technology Funding by Type

USD million



The rare water tech unicorn: Gradiant lands USD 225 million Series D

End-to-end solutions for water reuse in industrial and manufacturing sectors

Suite of solutions

Range of advanced membrane, thermal, oxidation processes, and smart chemical-dosing technologies

Digital capabilities through AI acquisition

Synauta: Machine learning data and mathematical models can optimize the performance of desalination and reuse plants, delivering up to 20% operational cost (opex) savings

Expanding into new markets

- Semiconductors
- Pharmaceuticals
- Mining – Lithium



Water deals: Greater frequency of big-money rounds indicates a maturing sector



USD 200M



USD 201M



USD 27M



ZWITTERCO

USD 33M



USD 43M



USD 15M

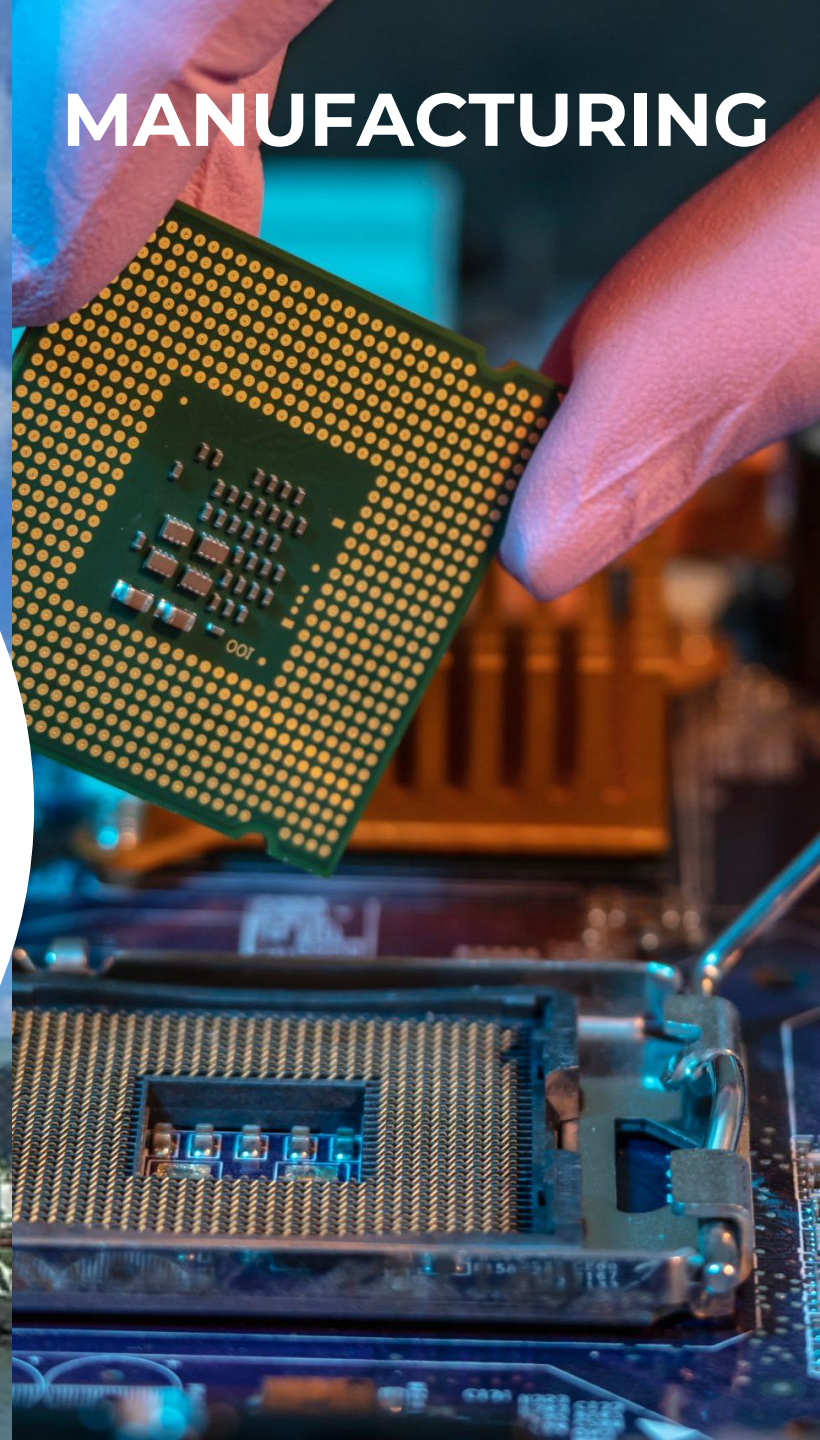
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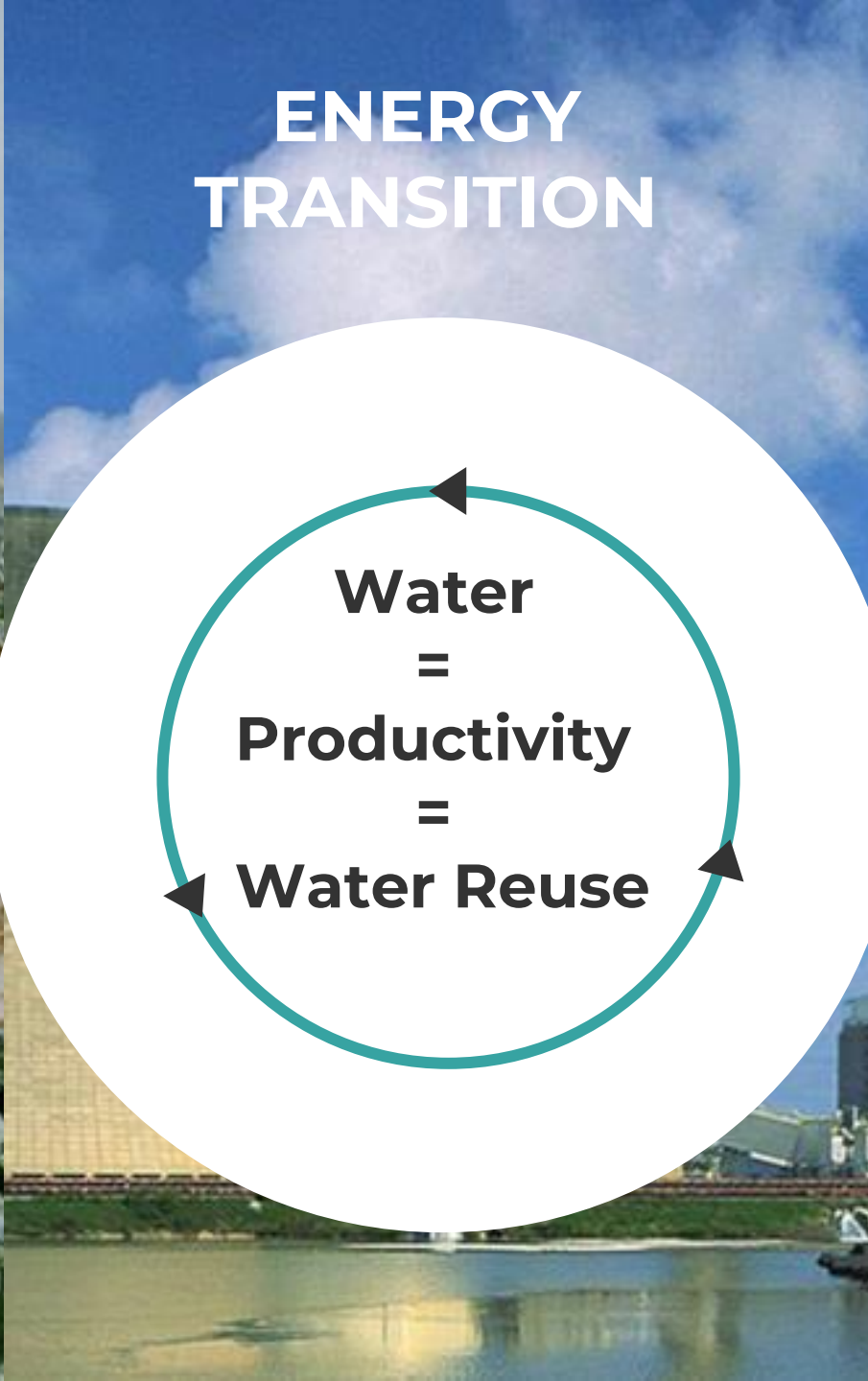


**Water
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Productivity**

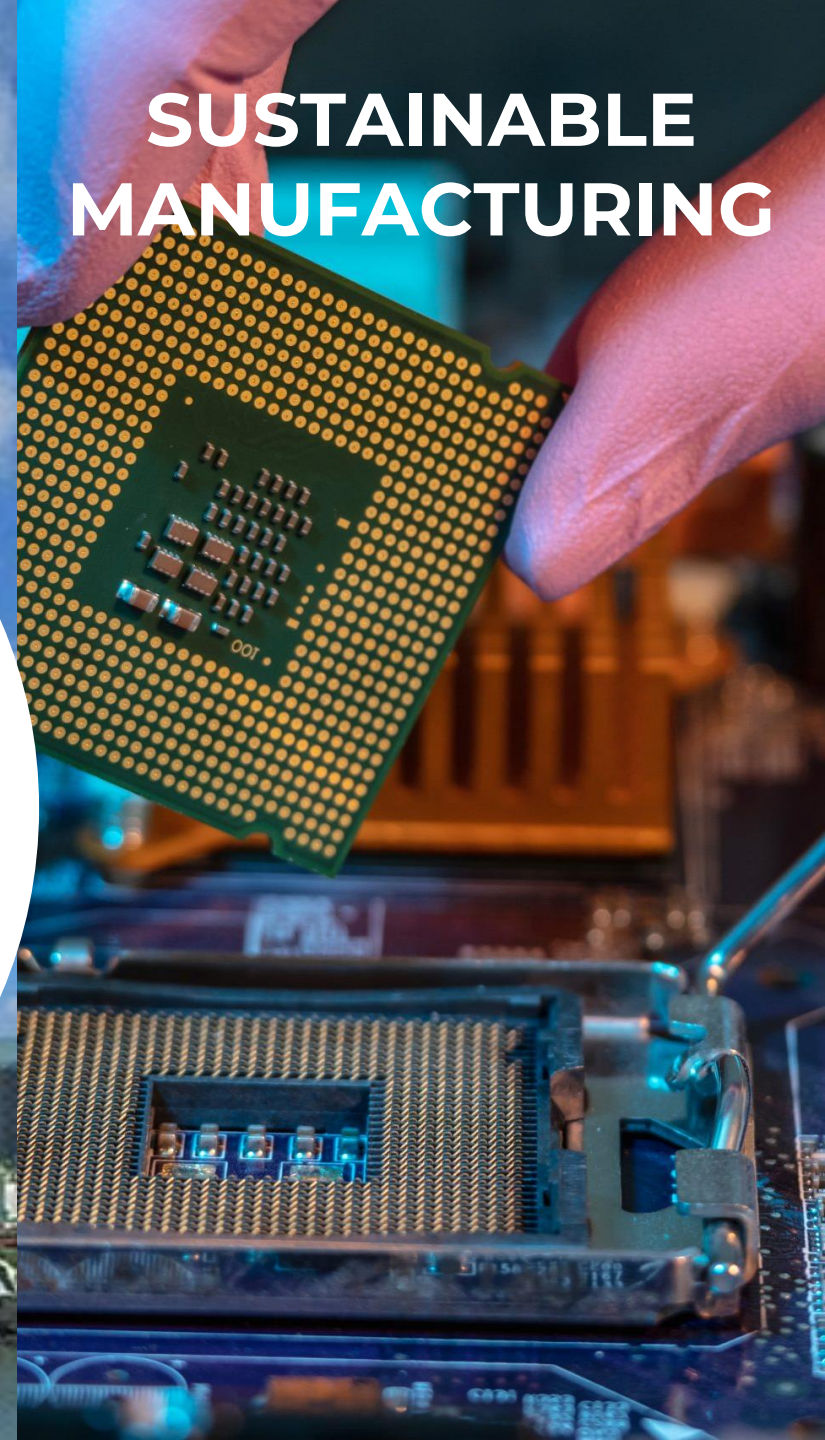
CLIMATE- PROOF FOOD



ENERGY TRANSITION



SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING



Water
=
Productivity
=
Water Reuse

Increasing water consumption drives innovations in reuse



New Capacity: Desalination vs. Reuse



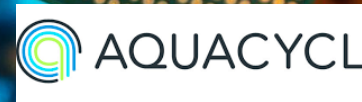
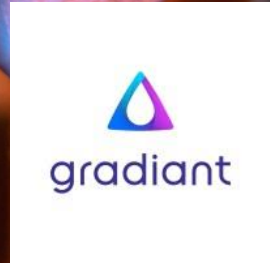
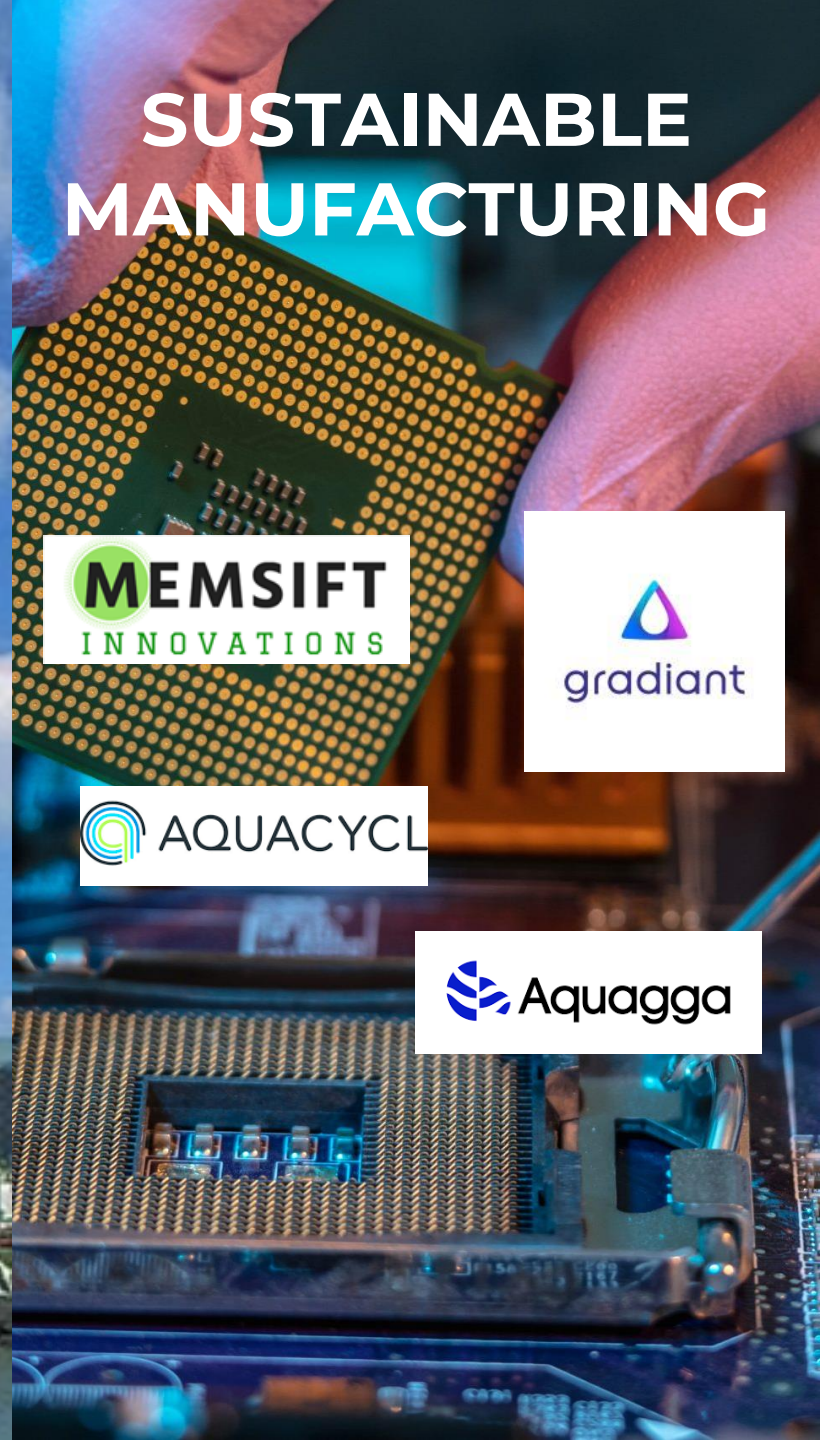
CLIMATE-PROOF FOOD



ENERGY TRANSITION



SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING



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Key Takeaways

1 **Water is a climate challenge for industry. Stop ignoring the problem**

Water availability is a growing operational and supply chain risk, and solutions in industrial settings can help alleviate this problem.

2 **Innovation momentum has grown. Investments are catching up**

Many novel technologies are approaching commercialization. Investors are more bullish about the prospects for water tech startups.

3 **Water use = water reuse**

Solutions that enable water recycling within an industrial facility solve the two grand challenges of reducing consumption and managing wastewater.

Thank you

A link of the webinar recording will be emailed within 24–48 hours.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

APRIL 11

[Taking Flight: The Future of Sustainable Aviation Fuels](#)

APRIL 18

[The Future of Agile Research: Using AI-Enabled Tools for Consumer-Centric Innovation](#)



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