

Rising Water Prices in Beijing as Water Transfer Delayed to 2014

Posted on [2009/05/19](#) by [Alex Wang](#)

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From [Reuters](#) earlier last week:

The Chinese capital of Beijing will raise water prices this year as it tries to conserve precious supplies, China News Service reported, citing a local official.

Cheng Jing, the head of Beijing's water resources bureau, told a conference on Sunday the city would draw up price hike plans within the next two months.

He said the postponement of a project aimed at diverting 1 billion cubic metres of water a year to the capital had put the arid city under even more pressure to conserve.

Northern China's already scarce water supplies have been worsened by rapid rates of industrialisation, wasteful irrigation projects and the pollution of underground water tables throughout the region.

China has run into a number of recent challenges in its efforts to alleviate the Northern China water shortage.

- The 500 billion yuan (\$73.32 billion) North-South Water Diversion project has been delayed until 2014 "amid environmental concerns."
- According to the Ministry of Water Resources, Beijing's "usable water supplies" are about 300 m³ per person, a third of the national rate.
- In addition to Beijing, 110 cities in China face serious water supply problems.

According to [Nanhai Web](#), a public hearing will be held on water prices:

北京市水务局相关人士称，调整水价已经列入今年的水务工作日程，这也是北京的节水措施之一，能否调整从程序上要经过听证。

目前综合水价低于成本，调整水价势在必行，具体调整时间要依据北京市发改委的通知。据介绍，北京市自2001年以来已连续4次调整水价，综合水价从每吨

3.01元提高到目前的5.04元。居民生活用水、工业用水、农业用水、洗浴中心等不同行业水价不同，高档洗浴、洗车等高耗水的特殊行业实施的是高额水价，居民用水水价为每吨3.70元。

Officials from Beijing Water Resources Bureau said that water price hike has been put on this year's agenda, representing one of the water-conserving measures in Beijing, and a public hearing will be held on water prices. At present, the overall water prices are lower than the cost, so an increase of the prices is inevitable. The specific date of the increase will be based on the announcement of Beijing Development and Reform Commission. Beijing has raised prices four times since 2001, from 3.01 yuan/ton to 5.04 yuan/ton. The prices for residential, industrial, agricultural uses and bathing center vary from one another. The water price for residential use is currently 3.70 yuan/ton.

[EnvironmentalLeader.com](#) notes that companies are not sufficiently aware of the economic risks from China's water shortage issues.

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