

[The Register-Guard](#)

Letters

Letters in the editor's mailbag from Thursday's print edition

Published: 12:00 a.m., March 28

Look to NGOs for water solutions

Climate change is having disastrous effects on our world, making rainfall and water availability increasingly unpredictable.

In Eugene, we are extremely fortunate to have clean, potable water readily available and the infrastructure to regulate and monitor our resources. Sriram Khé's eloquent March 21 description of Oregon's bounty illustrates the necessity of clean water for basic sanitation and agricultural livelihoods ("In a global context, Oregon's water is a luxury").

In Senegal, where the Center for Renewable Energy & Appropriate Technology for the Environment works, we see firsthand the catastrophic impact inadequate access to water can have on peoples' lives and economies. Insufficient water resources can and do control the quality of life for many, particularly agriculturally based rural populations.

The use, education and training of appropriate technologies is key in CREATE!'s strategy, as those low-cost approaches, using locally available resources and materials, make them accessible to village populations in the developing world and allow them to build their own capacity to improve their lives and solve basic and fundamental problems of life. The approaches include water acquisition, use and storage; local food production for consumption and income generation; and renewable energy and energy conservation — CREATE!'s principal sectors of intervention.

There's a tremendous amount that individuals can do to advocate for water security. Encouraging governments is a necessary step, but more immediate impact can be had through supporting non-governmental organizations' work on the ground. Organizations such as CREATE! work directly with people to solve some of the most pressing needs, while governments often play catch-up.

Barry Wheeler
Executive director, CREATE!

Eugene