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REGENERATIVE
By Sherrell Dorsey

Your front row seat to the future
of sustainable innovation.

I landed in the Paris airport from Morocco, exhausted but grateful, after a weeklong fellowship trip with REALITY in September of 2022 — a journey exploring culture, religion, and, admittedly, indulging a little too much in local cuisine without a local's stomach. Somewhere between the couscous and mint tea, I picked up a wicked case of food poisoning. It took a call to a local doctor and a round of antibiotics just to get me cleared for my flight home.

When I finally arrived at the Paris airport, I made a beeline for the lounge. A shower, a plate of food, and several glasses of water later, I was starting to feel human again. That's when I noticed Scott Harrison, founder and CEO of **Charity: Water**, sitting a few seats down from my corner nook.

Back in my reporting days at **Inhabitat**, I met Scott at what was probably my very first press event — a private breakfast atop the W Hotel in Times Square. Charity: Water was still gaining its footing then, but even in those early days, Scott's passion for building a model of sustainable, community-led water access was unmistakable. It was the first time I'd seen a founder so clearly link business infrastructure with humanitarian impact.

I walked over to reintroduce myself and thanked him for the work he's done — not just for the communities his organization serves, but for setting a standard that so many impact-driven businesses aspire to follow.

But this newsletter isn't about Scott.

It's about water.

And while many of us can turn a faucet and fill a glass without a second thought, water has quietly become one of the most political, precarious, and urgent issues of our time. The safety and accessibility of clean water — something that should be a basic human right — is increasingly at risk.

The Trump administration's rollbacks on environmental protections and expanded drilling permissions are just one chapter. PFAS (the notorious "forever chemicals") are showing up in municipal water supplies across the country. Flint, Michigan still doesn't have clean water. And globally, **one in four** people lacks access to safely managed drinking water services.

It's a crisis that touches everything: human health, agriculture, food security, biodiversity, even geopolitical stability.

This week, I'm turning our focus to the state of water — where public policy is failing, where innovation is rising, and how private capital and community-driven solutions might fill in the gaps. From carbon capture technologies that extract water from the air to decentralized treatment systems that put water governance back into local hands, the future of water requires our collective attention.

Because a society without clean, affordable, and accessible water isn't just an environmental failure. It's a humanitarian one.

I'll leave you with a few things to watch, support, or invest in this week.

Stay sharp,



P.S.

*I've been leading up the women in business and tech community inside the **Kyndr app**. Kyndr has a built-in commitment to user safety, economic empowerment, continuous access, and public transparency that drives*

productive human connection, conversation, and opportunities around mutually vested interests, topics, and identities.

It's a rapidly growing space where many of my respected colleagues are building incredible communities in culture, women's sports, film, and more.

Join my community and explore the others when you sign up here: <https://kyndr01.app.link/9iFKkhHICSb>.



COMPANY TO CLOCK: **Blueland**

Blueland is revolutionizing the \$40 billion global cleaning products industry by eliminating single-use plastic packaging.

<https://www.blueland.com/>

Headquarters

New York, NY

Why it matters

Their innovative approach addresses the significant contributor to microplastic pollution in waterways, offering sustainable alternatives that reshape consumer habits.

- **Innovative Approach:** Water-activated tablet cleaning products reduce the need for plastic packaging by offering refillable, reusable containers.
- **Social & Environmental Impact:** Helps divert billions of plastic bottles from landfills and oceans.
- **Global Reach Potential:** Though currently focused in the U.S., their model is scalable globally as demand for sustainable home care grows.

The scale of the industry

The global household cleaning products market is expected to reach **\$320 billion by 2028**, with sustainable products becoming one of the fastest-growing segments due to consumer awareness around environmental impact.

Traction

- **Funding:** Raised \$35 million across Seed and Series B rounds.
- **Impact:** Prevented over **1 billion plastic bottles** from entering landfills and oceans since launch.
- **Partnerships/Initiatives:** Certified B Corp, Climate Neutral Certified, and partners with organizations like Plastic Pollution Coalition to raise awareness about microplastic contamination.

Major investors

- Prelude Growth Partners
- Global Founders Capital
- Able Partners
- Comcast Ventures
- BAM Ventures
- BBG Ventures

- Justin Timberlake
 - Jennifer Fleiss
 - Nicolas Jammet
 - Nick Green
 - Adrian Grenier
 - Brian Lee
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BIG BILLS, BIG DEALS

- **Boon Raises \$5M Series A for AI-Driven Water Access**
India-based startup Boon secured \$5 million in a Series A round led by Roca Ventures. Boon leverages AI and IoT to deliver affordable clean drinking water, impacting over 2 million people. The company has received recognition from UNDP, WWF, and UNIDO. [Boon Raises \\$5M](#)
- **Verdi Secures \$4.7M for Smart Irrigation Technology** Canadian ag-tech startup Verdi raised \$4.7 million to expand its smart irrigation systems, aiming to optimize water usage for crops like grapes, berries, and vegetables. The funding will support scaling operations and technology development. [GeekWire](#) [MAA](#)
- **StormHarvester Closes €13.1M Series A for Wastewater AI** UK-based StormHarvester, specializing in AI analytics for wastewater utilities, completed a €13.1 million Series A round. Investors include YFM Equity Partners and Emerald Technology Ventures. [WSJ](#)

POLICY PLAYS

- **EPA Rollbacks on PFAS Protections**
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced significant rollbacks on regulations concerning per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), commonly known as "forever chemicals." While limits on PFOA and PFOS remain at 4 parts per trillion, compliance deadlines have been extended to 2031. Regulations on other PFAS compounds, including GenX, PFHxS, PFNA, and PFBS, are being rescinded and reconsidered. These changes have raised concerns among environmental and public health advocates, who argue that the rollbacks prioritize industry interests over public health and may violate provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act. [Toxic Free Future](#)
 - **European Union's Water Subsidy Proposal:**
The European Commission is drafting plans to offer new subsidies to farmers under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy to promote better water management and reduce waste. These funds aim to assist with the adoption of drought-resistant crops and precision irrigation systems in response to climate change impacts. [Reuters](#)
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INDUSTRY EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

- **LabStart Applications are Open for Climate Tech Startups and Ideas.** Applications close July 7th.
- **ReFed Food Waste Solutions Summit: (June 23-25, Seattle, WA):**
The nation's premier gathering of the food waste movement.
- **Feedstocks for Plastics Recycling Conference:** Set for June 24, 2025, in Brussels, this event will explore the latest developments in feedstocks for plastics recycling.
- **World Rivers Day:** An annual global event celebrated on the fourth Sunday of every September, emphasizing the importance of rivers and

fostering greater public awareness and stewardship for river conservation worldwide.

- **Plastics Recycling Conference 2025**: Scheduled for February 23-25, 2026, in Chula Vista, California, this conference will bring together industry leaders to discuss innovations and challenges in plastics recycling.

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