

One issue WSSC will probably face in the near or far future is water sources, like rivers and lakes, either drying up or relocating due to climate change, as well as rising sea levels presenting a whole cabal of problems on their own. This can present a variety of worries about water quality and where water comes from, which can easily disturb the local populace. The lakes might move or redistribute their water elsewhere, or the chemical composition of the water can change, making the water toxic slowly over time or presenting other hazardous health effects. One might want to install technological sensors that can detect the chemical makeup of water that passes through it, either alerting someone that the water has gone awry or fixing the chemical composition of the water on its own, if possible. This could easily automate some of the process and remove some of the worry of possibly having to shut down the water supply for a short while, while looking for a new source. Speaking of new sources, the ocean might be viable as a source of drinking water and salt, if you are able to separate the water and salt from each other. Depending on how the salt water interacts with the material composition of the waste and the tunnels that carry it, it could be used as wastewater, since the highly salty aspect of this type of water could be good for breaking waste down. Granted, the ocean might also become a source of fear for most as the sea levels rise faster than the temperatures. Several water pumping stations with early warning systems and highly technologically advanced systems are a necessity for areas that are close to or below sea level, like areas in Louisiana, to prevent too much water getting into places where it should not be. This can be accomplished through creating computers that have loads of data to predict what the oceans will do, ahead of time, buying us enough time to prepare and possibly prevent a catastrophe, saving lives and garnering a great deal of positive reputation for the company that installed such a computer. Sophisticated systems of technology could also be used to predict what people will do during different seasons that occur in different areas, and suggest reasonable things to do to both streamline this process and help get water to those that may not have it during certain times of the year, due to higher-than-normal use of fresh drinking water during periods like the summer, or assisting with water mains possibly freezing during an especially cold winter season. Some might think or worry that the artificial intelligence used in a few of the previously highlighted scenarios could suddenly decide to cause a massive drought, but that is not the case. Superintelligence going rogue is a trope in movies and not explained well, much like how these things come about in the first place. In order to make sure these things actually function, one would need to rigorously test and prototype such a product, often over the course of years, before being confident that it even would serve a rudimentary purpose. This fear is like assuming a baby is secretly plotting to cause mass extinction before it can even walk or talk, simply because we do not have any evidence that it will not. Plus, even if artificial intelligence does get to that point, only a fool would take the human element completely out of the picture and let the machine completely take over, both literally and in a darker figurative sense. Technology, as long as it is used in the right way in the right situation, can greatly help expedite processes and possibly save some lives in the process, with great efficiency and speed.