

New registrations to Consorcio PCJ's Water School grow during the Coronavirus quarantine

Number of active students on Consorcio PCJ's digital platform is higher than that of 2019

Coronavirus is changing habits around the world. People are spending more time inside their houses to protect themselves of the virus, working, exercising and studying. These situations become a great opportunity for people to learn with online courses, including water-related topics. Last year, Consorcio PCJ launched its platform called "Water School", which can be accessed at <https://escola.agua.org.br> and offers four courses, totally free.

The most recent course "SDG and the 2030 Agenda", initially thought to be part of the Water Drop Project, was launched on 16 April 2020. This course, organized by the Program of Environmental Education from the Consorcio PCJ and now available to any registered student, will provide background information on the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and discuss potential strategies towards a sustainable future.

Beyond this course, the Water School offers three other courses on Ecotourism, Water and Sanitation and Resilience to Extreme Events. Currently, the School has 405 registered students, almost twice as much as the total number of registered students in 2019. This remarkable increase in the number of registered students is likely due to the coronavirus pandemic, which led to the cancellation of in-person classes promoted by the School.

During this period of quarantine, Consorcio PCJ has been putting its efforts to develop online courses for its members and the whole society to improve their knowledge on water-related topics. In addition, Consorcio PCJ is also promoting other freely-available initiatives from partner institutions, such as the National Water Agency, related to water management, sustainable development and environmental education, among others. Find more about such initiatives below:

Intermunicipal Consortium of Piracicaba, Capivari and Jundiá River Basins (Consorcio PCJ)

Water School is an initiative of three institutions of Piracicaba, Capivari and Jundiá River Basins, in São Paulo State, Brazil: Consorcio PCJ, Agencia PCJ (PCJ River Basins Agency) and ARES-PCJ (Sanitation Regulatory Agency). The digital platform offers free courses related to water, sanitation and sustainability.

<https://escola.agua.org.br/>

United Nations (UN)

The United Nations, through UNESCO and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), have a tool called UN CC:Learn, which is a collaborative initiative of more than 30 multilateral organizations supporting countries to develop and implement systematic, recurrent and results-oriented climate change learning. The initiative was launched at the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Change Summit.

<https://www.uncclearn.org/>

National Water Agency of Brazil (ANA)

ANA has an initiative called Water Management Capacitation with many courses on: Regulation, conservation and rational uses of water; Governance and water management;

Communication and social participation; Water Quality; Environmental Education, and others.
<https://capacitacao.ead.unesp.br/>

Brazilian Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (ABES)

UNIABES is the University of ABES that offers several courses on Environmental Sanitation.
<http://www.abes-ead.org.br/>

Federal Institute of Rio Grande do Sul – Brazil (IFRS)

The Institute offers several courses in different topics, such as Water Management, Natural Sciences, Environmental Planning and Health, and Waste Management.
<https://moodle.ifrs.edu.br/course/index.php?categoryid=38>

Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBIO)

The Chico Mendes Institute offers courses on Geoprocessing Tools, Conservation Strategies, Operation Planning and Budgeting, in specific calls.
<http://ava.icmbio.gov.br/>

Open and Integrated University of Minas Gerais (Uaitec)

UAITEC is a Minas Gerais's Government Program, coordinated by the State Secretary of Economic Development, Technology Science and Higher Education, that offers freely available professional qualification.
<http://www.uaitec.mg.gov.br/>

“Portal Capacidades” of the Regional Development Ministry

The Regional Development Ministry, through the National Program for Cities' Capacity Building, focuses on institutional strengthening for planning and management by qualifying public gestors from different areas. Portal Capacidades promotes several free courses on Sanitation, Environment and Urban Planning themes.
<http://www.capacidades.gov.br/>

Industrial Learning National Service (SENAI)

SENAI offers free courses on many topics like Environmental Education and Conscious Energy Consumption and others sustainability-related topics.
<https://loja.mundosenai.com.br/senainacional/searchbar/index/result/>