

*EU policy has helped
to create jobs and growth
in the water sector.*



9 000 active SMEs
almost **500 000** jobs

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

EU water policies and measures give everyone the chance to have their say and play an active part in better managing water in Europe through public consultations.

... AND YOUR ACTIONS TOO

Fix or report leaks fast, don't leave water running, take shorter showers, recycle used water, install dual-flush toilets, optimise wash cycles, capture rainwater, design water-smart buildings and gardens, irrigate wisely, use fewer household chemicals, don't pour medicines or oil down the sink ...

*Water is
indispensable!*

EU-wide laws, projects and awareness-raising efforts are making a huge difference to how Europeans view water today. The seriousness of water-related problems is recognised. So is the need for better ways to manage water resources and the water environment. Heavy fines for polluters are supported. These measures and more are made possible by EU water policy.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EU laws and actions protect water resources, fresh and salt-water ecosystems, and the water we drink and bathe in.

EU water policy:

<http://water.europa.eu/policy>



EUEnvironment



EU ENV





WATER

What's in it for you?

Access to clean water and sanitation
is essential for citizens

Clean drinking and bathing water are
vital to daily life and good health

Floods and droughts are becoming
more common and more intense

Water management is not someone
else's problem ...

Be water aware!

Did you know ...



We need about
50-100 litres of water
a day for basic needs and health,
but average use in Europe is around
200 litres a day




44% of Europe's fresh water
is used in agriculture



Water scarcity affects at least
11% of the European population



80% of marine litter
comes from land-based sources



You never miss the water till the well runs dry ...

It's an old saying but it still applies to how we view water today in Europe. We're lucky to have clean water that's drinkable from the tap, almost all of our beaches are fit for swimming, our rivers and lakes are protected, and we have measures in place to keep it this way.

But none of this happens by chance. It's part of a well-planned framework of laws and systems across Europe that ensure we have sufficient, good-quality water for everyone – families, farmers, manufacturers – and for nature.

THE PRICE WE PAY

Tap water costs about € 0.004 cents per half litre. That price covers the whole water supply chain including treatment. Compare that to what we pay for bottled water!

source: EEA

TAKING CARE



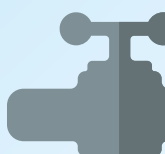
CLEAN WATER FOR ALL ...

How can we ease pressure on water resources from households, agriculture and industry so there's enough clean water for all of us and for nature?



DRINKING & BATHING WATER ...

Europe's drinking and bathing waters are cleaner and safer than ever, but can they be further improved?



FLOODS & DROUGHTS ...

What's happening to the weather in Europe? Wet and dry extremes seem more frequent and intense.



WASTE-WATER TREATMENT & REUSE ...

What happens to waste-water in Europe? Can it be treated for safe reuse?





E OF WATER



HOLISTIC WATER MANAGEMENT ...

A 'river-basin approach' – based on understanding the water cycle and the impact of everyone's actions in each catchment area – upstream and downstream.



DRINKING WATER MANAGEMENT ...

EU-wide standards, testing and enforcement of good practices to further safeguard drinking water.

BATHING WATER MANAGEMENT ...

Systematic testing, reporting and classification of bathing water quality to ensure that we go beyond 95 % of sites meeting EU standards.



FLOOD-RISK MANAGEMENT ...

Building controls in flood-prone areas; natural measures to prevent floods; disaster preparedness and early warnings about floods.

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ...

Research, monitoring and new (green) technologies to help Europe deal with water shortages; communication of better water-saving and reuse practices.

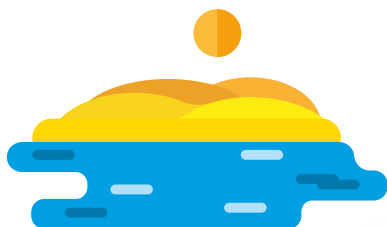
WASTE-WATER & REUSE MANAGEMENT ...

Strict EU and national laws, standards and best practices for the treatment, testing and reuse of waste-water; greater awareness of water-reuse opportunities, and of the cost (including energy) of treatment and supply.



LAKES AND RIVERS

Europe's goal is to ensure our lakes and rivers achieve good ecological and chemical status. Ground waters are also protected.



COASTS AND SEAS

Europe's marine and coastal environment faces severe pressure from both land- and ocean-based sources. Better waste and wastewater management, efforts to prevent and reduce marine litter and make sure fishing is sustainable, as well as to protect marine biodiversity, are part of an integrated marine strategy to reach 'Good Environmental Status' by 2020.

WISE BATHING

The Water Information System for Europe (WISE) includes data and maps on the quality of coastal and fresh bathing waters:

www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps