

THE WATER CHALLENGE EVERY DROP COUNTS



Green Week - Brussels, 22-25 May 2012

Green Week 2012

Session 4.6

Resource Efficiency and
the Water Industry



**THE WATER CHALLENGE
EVERYDROP COUNTS**

Green Week - Brussels, 22-25 May 2012



Water Industry in the EU tackling Resource Efficiency

Green Week 2012, Session 4.6

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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
OF WATER & WASTE WATER SERVICES

EUREAU

27 full and 2 observer
members association

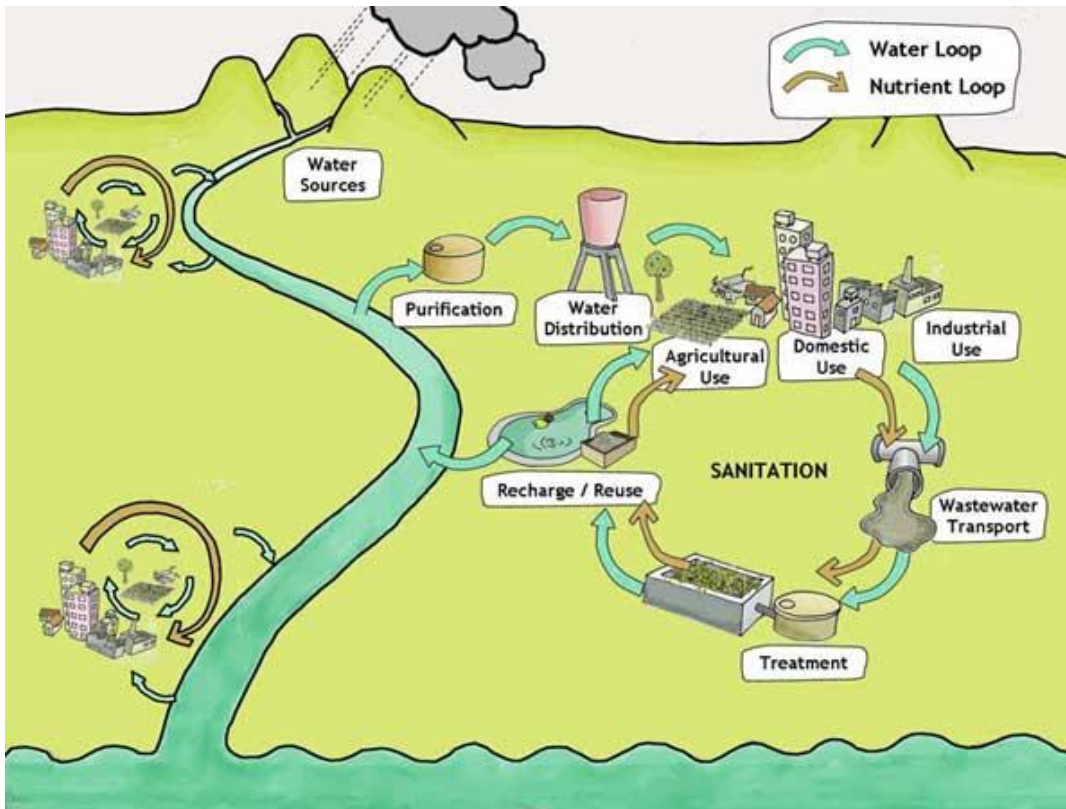
29 countries

70.000 utilities

405 millions of
customers



- Full members
- Full members (EFTA countries)
- Observer members
- Non members (EU countries)



Sustainable
Management of Water



Sustainable
Water Services

Principles:

- Stringent authorisation of chemicals
- Avoidance of pollution at the immediate source
- Polluter Pays
- User Pays

RESOURCE SCARCITY IN THE WATER SECTOR

- **The performance of water service providers is faced by the scarcity of a set of resources:**
 - Drinking water resources of good quality
 - Capital
 - Competent human resources
 - Energy
- **Performance indicators must respect long term resource strategy, as minimum to ensure high:**
 - Safety, quality & sustainability of water services
 - Economic efficiency & customer satisfaction

EUREAU POLICY TOWARDS WATER RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

3 PRINCIPLES

1. Managing water demand (in water stressed areas) & protect water bodies for multiple uses
2. Improving availability of drinking water resources of good quality (together protecting ecosystems)
3. Governing water wisely including economic/financial aspects

Important message ...

Water resource efficiency should cover the entire water cycle at a local level, taking into account a local water demand

MEASURES FOR RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

1. Managing water demand:

- **Leakage control & reduction**
(e.g. Infrastructure Leakage Index in MT)
- **Water recycling – alternative source:**
energy recovery, nutrients, grey water reuse, rain water harvesting, sustainable urban drainage
- **Managing water demand wisely!**
Protect water bodies & ensure water needs for multiple uses
– *‘Which water quality for which uses?’*

Not to forget that...

Water utilities are willing to encourage water demand reduction, BUT new evolution of business models are needed, as current system does not provide right economic incentives



MEASURES FOR RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

2. Improving availability of drinking water resources of good quality:

- **Protection** of drinking water resources:
Go upstream – is the first and the highest priority !
- **More stringent authorisation** of chemicals that could enter the water cycle
- **Control of pollution at source** (agriculture, chemicals, etc.)
- **‘Urban shadow’**: relating agriculture and water: crop management, soil management (plant protection products, pesticides, fertilisers, etc.)
- **Holistic approach to water scarcity**; to address urban vulnerability to climate variability: water buffering or management of distribution systems

MEASURES FOR RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

3. Governing water wisely including economic aspects:

- **Strengthen governance** of water resource use, abstraction & protection
- **Financing of the water sector** needs to be secured and managed in a sustainable manner - *streamline roadmaps & combine financial resources at a catchment scale*
- **Innovative aspects to improve governance:** integrating sustainable approaches for water management in urban infrastructure systems; improve operation of services
- **Value chain of water services** to be re-assessed: new mindsets & business models to be proposed
- **Integrated water - land-use planning & management** – absolute need
- **Full cost recovery** based on ‘polluter pays’ & ‘user-pays’ principles is the base for setting water pricing policy

SUSTAINABLE WATER SERVICES FOR RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

Messages to bring home

- **Protect drinking water resources – the front activity!**
- **Improve water efficiency – ‘twin-track’: waste less & use new resources**
- **Utilize energy & nutrient potentials in waste water**
- **New business models of water utilities**
- **Different solutions in Malta and Finland**



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