

WESSEX WATER SERVICES LTD ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Purpose

Wessex Water Services Limited's (WWSL) Environmental Policy supports the company's aims to protect and improve the environment and its commitment to becoming a truly sustainable company. We do this by delivering the highest possible quality of water and wastewater services that safeguard the environment and comply with, or go above and beyond, regulation/legislation, and in the innovative ways in which we:

- solve problems
- build and manage our assets
- interact with stakeholders
- carry out our role as a good employer.

Policy objectives

To achieve the company's environmental aims and commitments, including those set out in the company's Strategic Direction Statement and Business Plan, we are committed to:

- enhancing the environment through the services we provide
- operating in a socially responsible manner
- reducing emissions to levels at which adverse impacts on the environment are avoided
- improving the efficiency of our use of natural resources, energy and other inputs
- complying with and, where possible, exceeding European, national, and local codes, consents and directives
- consulting with environmental regulators and other stakeholders on proposed legislation
- engaging and involving the public and local groups in our work where it may affect them
- ensuring that our assets and working practices are resilient, and continue to deliver high quality reliable services, even in the face of unusual events
- being fully prepared to cope with operational emergencies that might affect the environment
- continually improving the environmental management of our activities
- continually monitoring our environmental performance
- regularly reporting on our environmental performance and associated environmental issues; and raising environmental awareness among the people we serve, our employees and other stakeholders
- communicating environmental issues and the impact of changes in environmental legislation within our company, to help enable continuous improvement and promote best practice.

Regulation and legislation

The company is an appointed water and sewerage undertaker by the Secretary of State for the Environment under Sections of the Water Industry Act 1991. A copy of the full operating licence describing the conditions of the appointment can be found on the [economic regulator's \(Ofwat\) website](#).

The key regulators/stakeholders are:

Organisation	Responsibilities
Ofwat	Sets regulation and policy
DEFRA	Strategic environmental regulation and policy
Consumer Council for Water	Representing customers
Environment Agency	Environmental monitoring, permitting, legislation and regulation
Natural England	Environmental monitoring, consenting, legislation and regulation

The main environmental legislation that the company complies with is:

Water Industry Act 1991: This consolidates previous legislation on water supply and sewerage services (including trade effluent consents). It requires licenses for abstraction, impoundment and established flood defence committees, and provides for works notices and water protection zones.

Water Act 2003: This sets out the framework for water abstraction licensing, regulation of impoundments, and measures for drought management and flood defence.