

Water resources management plans – water supply for the future

What's happening

Between April and June 2008 all the water companies of England and Wales will consult on new plans for water supply. This fact sheet tells you how to find out what's in your company's plan and how you can have your say.

Why does my water company need a new plan?

The plan shows how water supply will be managed in your area for the next 25 years. Planning for long term secure water supply is not easy – water companies will need to meet challenges of increasing population, changing lifestyles, reduced water availability in some areas, and climate change.

Do the plans affect me?

Yes. Your water company's plan will show:

- proposed developments like a new reservoir or borehole to secure supply and how much these will cost;
- proposed water efficiency initiatives and how these involve you as the customer;
- how leakage will be controlled;
- how the environment will be protected and improved;
- how new housing developments in your area will be supplied with water.

These plans will affect your local environment and your water bill.

How will my water company make sure my water supply is secure?

Your water company will forecast how much water customers need and how much water will be available for supply in the future. In areas of England and Wales where demand for water is expected to be greater than available supply the plans will show the changes the company will make to maintain a secure water supply.

Who will make sure that the plans are good enough?

The plans are submitted to Government Ministers, who want to hear from anyone who has a view on the plans.

At the Environment Agency we'll be analysing each water company's plan to make sure it maintains future water supply properly. This means making sure there is enough water for people and businesses without damaging the environment. We'll

look for a good balance between new resources and making better use of the water we have already. We'll check that plans consider climate change and that companies are planning to reduce the amount of water they take where water abstraction is damaging the environment.

Is there anything the plans don't cover?

Water resources management plans don't cover how water companies operate from day to day, and they don't give any details on how your water company will deal with sewage or sewer flooding. You should contact your water company separately for this information.

The plans do not cover the details of how water companies plan for and manage droughts either. This is covered in your water company's drought plan.

How can I find out more?

If you would like to know more about the process, have a look on our website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/waterplans or call us on 08708 506 506.

If you want to read your water company's plan, contact the company and ask how you can see a copy. The plan should be on the water company's website in April 2008. Your water company will give you details of how to respond with your views.

Which is my water company?

The easiest way to find out which water company supplies you is to have a look on your most recent water bill. Otherwise contact details for all water companies are listed on the Water UK website www.water.org.uk