

6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



FU⁺UREPLUS



SDG 6: CLEAN WATER & SANITATION

A FU⁺UREPLUS GUIDE



+ “ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL.” (By 2030)

Target 6.1 – Safe and affordable drinking water

Target 6.2 – End open defecation and provide access to sanitation and hygiene

Target 6.3 – Improve water quality, waste water, treatment and safe reuse

Target 6.4 – Increase water-use efficiency and ensure freshwater supplies

Target 6.5 – Implement integrated water resources management

Target 6.6 – Protect and restore water-related ecosystems

Target 6.7 – Expand water and sanitation support to developing countries

Target 6.8 – Support local engagement in water and sanitation management

+ PROGRESS & INFO

We are seeing more and more countries experiencing water stress, and increasing drought and desertification is already worsening these trends. Although 2.1 billion people have improved water sanitation since 1990, dwindling water supplies are affecting every continent. By 2050, it is projected that at least 1 in 4 people will suffer recurring water shortages.

Ensuring universal safe and affordable drinking water involves reaching over 800 million people who lack basic services and improving accessibility and safety of service for over 2 billion.

1 in 3 people globally do not have access to safe drinking water. This is also causing unnecessary disease and death.



+ DEFINITIONS

Water stress – It occurs when the demand for water exceeds the available amount during a certain period or when poor quality restricts its use. Water stress causes deterioration of fresh water resources in terms of quantity (e.g. aquifer overexploitation)

Water scarcity – two types of water scarcity: physical or economic. Physical water scarcity is where there is not enough water to meet all demands, including that needed for ecosystems to function effectively. Economic water scarcity is caused by a lack of investment in infrastructure or technology to draw water from water sources, or insufficient human capacity to satisfy the demand for water. Much of Sub-Saharan Africa is characterized by economic water scarcity.

Drought – Different from water scarcity. Drought refers to the state of the system (often quantified as when water levels fall below a certain threshold), whereas water scarcity refers to the dependence of people on that system and it only occurs when water availability is low compared to the human demand.

+ THE ROLE OF BUSINESSES

Business can contribute to the alleviation of water challenges by adopting a water stewardship strategy that addresses the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of water.

By adopting stewardship, companies are able to make a positive contribution to improved water and sanitation management and governance that addresses their risks while contributing to sustainable development. This means adopting values and practices that aim to safeguard long-term availability of clean water and the provision of sanitation for all stakeholders in a watershed.



+ BUSINESS ACTIONS

- Start by **measuring and reporting** your organisation's water usage. Consider getting a water meter to be aware of your water usage. If you are in a rented workplace, ask your landlord for the building's water bills and divide by the size of your office or number of employees. We can help you with this!
- Then, set **reduction targets** based on your baseline figures. Your targets should be ambitious, yet achievable.
- Implement **reduction strategies**, which could include using water bricks or other water displacement devices in toilet cisterns, fixing shower heads onto tap faucets, and placing signage to ensure taps are turned off when not in use. For more reduction strategies, please contact us.
- Take steps towards reducing water **pollution**. Do you have a Safe Disposal & Hazardous Waste policy? Do you have a wastewater system?
- Increase your water **efficiency** and **restoring** water-related ecosystems.
- Your sanitary facilities should be adapted to all gender identities, and to the cultural requirements that are present in your operational locations.
- Educate your employees on the importance of using water consciously. Discourage the overuse of water. Encourage your employees to make sure to turn off the tap when washing dishes.
- Consider possible ground-water **contamination within production**. For example, if your company uses fertilisers, consider switching to naturally occurring organic fertilisers.



+ ADDITIONAL ACTIONS

- Consider **supporting organisations** that empower communities to improve their own sanitation and hygiene. Here are a few examples of non-profit organisations focused on water and sanitation:
 - [Water.org](https://www.water.org)
 - [WaterAid](https://www.wateraid.org)
 - [Drop in the Bucket](https://www.dropinthebucket.org)
 - [Splash](https://www.splash.org)
 - [Water for Good](https://www.waterforgood.org)
 - [GivePower](https://www.givepower.org)
- External education and or promotion activities of SDG 6's targets.
- Organise or take part in a river/ocean clean-up programs.
- Go beyond standard water saving features within your office to install water reuse technologies.
- Provide equipment or incentives to your workforce to help them reduce their water consumption.

NEED MORE HELP?

- + We also offer consultancy services if you would like more comprehensive support with achieving your sustainability goals.

Please let us know if you would like more information – we would be happy to provide you with a quote: team@future-plus.co.uk