

Government to consult on reducing personal water consumption

Plans to encourage customers to save water in their everyday lives and to introduce a personal water consumption target have been [published today](#) (Friday 19 July).

The proposals form part of a public consultation that examines how water can be saved on a personal level, and how industry can take a leading role in supporting customers to use less.

In the 25 Year Environment Plan, the government committed to incentivise greater water efficiency and less personal use. As part of that, the aim of the new proposals is to develop a “water-saving culture” to make sure that there is enough clean water for everyone now and in the future.

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

We take our supply of clean water for granted and to keep doing that, given the growing population and impact of climate change, we need to challenge ourselves more on how much water we actually need to use.

While water companies must lead the way in reducing leakage, using water efficiently will help ensure we all have enough water for our homes, to produce food, products and services, and to protect our valuable natural environment for the next generation.

This call for evidence will help us set an ambitious target for personal water consumption.

On average, a person in England currently uses 141 litres of water per day, and over the last few years consumption figures have begun to rise. Research by the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) has shown that if this trend continues, England could see significant water deficits by 2050.

Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, said:

Balancing the water needed for people and the environment in the face of a warming climate and a growing population will be one of the major challenges of the next 25 years.

Our tap water comes direct from the ground, and our lakes and rivers where it supports wildlife. It is only by reducing the amount of water we all use that we can reduce pressure on the environment and avoid future water shortages. I'd encourage everyone to take part in the consultation and think about ways you

can use less water.

The consultation seeks to establish a personal water consumption target, inviting responses from the public as well as specialists including water companies and academics. It will look at measures on how to achieve this non-binding target and will include exploratory questions around:

- the labelling of water-using products;
- how building standards can be improved;
- the future role of metering;
- the implementation of behaviour change campaigns; and,
- how to improve the availability of information for consumers.

The consultation will run for 12 weeks. It will be open to any interested parties in England only.

The deadline for response is Friday 11 October 2019.

[News story: Government to consult on reducing personal water consumption](#)

Industry and consumers invited to bring forward ideas to reduce personal water consumption

[Traffic officers fly to the rescue of distressed buzzard](#)

The distressed buzzard was unable to fly and looking a little ruffled when traffic officers spotted it near junction 8 on the coastbound carriageway of the M20.

The team of rescuers which included Highways England traffic officers, Stephen Moakes, Nick Sivell, Jo Langton and Mike Reynolds, flew into action with their specialist equipment, following a tip off from a member of the public.

They worked with experts from the Eagle Heights Wildlife Foundation near Eynsford who suggested it was left in the care of Newnham Court Veterinary Hospital, Bearsted, where it's currently recovering.

Emily Fairhurst, veterinary nurse at Newnham veterinary hospital near Bearsted, said:

The buzzard was a little dishevelled, and very quiet. Previous experience with birds of this type suggest it may have hit a car windscreen and become a little disorientated.

Once it's recovered the bird will be given to local raptor experts for a long holiday at the Folly Wildlife Rescue Centre near Tunbridge Wells, where it will stay until it's released into the wild.

Stephen Moakes said:

No single day is the same in this job, and we come across all manner of different issues. Although we are more used to dealing with human customers, animals do end up on the motorway more often than you would think, and we are trained in dealing with a wide range of situations – so we didn't have to wing it.

It's always satisfying to help to know we have made a difference to such a majestic bird like this one and I want to thank my colleagues and partners involved to ensure we could resolve this swiftly and successfully. Hopefully if it decides to cross a busy road in future, it will use the flyover next time.

Experts say that birds of this type can be quite territorial. Once it has recovered it will be brought back to where it was found and released back into the wild.

The bird will be released in the next few weeks.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

[Global Resource Initiative taskforce:](#)

greening the UK's environmental footprint

Representatives from leading businesses and environmental groups come together today (18 July) to consider how we can reduce the climate and environment impacts of key UK supply chains.

The [Global Resource Initiative \(GRI\) taskforce](#) will seek to identify [ambitious actions](#) to drive more resilient and sustainable food systems that avoid deforestation and environmental degradation overseas, while supporting jobs and livelihoods.

The taskforce will bring together major businesses including [Legal & General](#), [Cargill](#), [McDonald's](#) and [Tesco](#) together with the [Green Finance Institute](#), [WWF](#) and [NGO Forest Coalition](#).

Just as any company has a supply chain, so too does the UK and demand for key commodities like palm oil, soya and beef can act as a driver of deforestation and environmental degradation overseas, leaving a so-called environmental footprint.

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

Ingredients in products we are consuming daily come from parts of the world where we are losing habitat, which impacts wildlife and climate change. Having a fully sustainable supply chain is vital for the planet. I am pleased the UK is showing leadership on this global challenge, supported by leading businesses, investors and conservationists.

The government anticipates a report next year, ahead of key international biodiversity and climate summits later that year.

The series of summits in the 2020 'super year' offer opportunities to shape the international sustainability agenda. It will contribute to the delivery of the UK's international commitments on climate and biodiversity, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

The GRI is a key part of the commitment the government made in the 25 Year Environment Plan to leave a lighter footprint on the global environment. It will complement existing work to promote sustainable commodities, and the government's recent commitment to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The taskforce is supported across government and was developed in partnership by the [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs \(Defra\)](#); the [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy \(BEIS\)](#) and the [Department for International Development \(DFID\)](#).

Sir Ian Cheshire, the chair of the independent taskforce said:

The GRI presents an opportunity to transform our approach to sustainable land use and to shape the direction of travel for the UK while creating a model for change that will inspire other countries.

I very much look forward to playing a leading role in this new taskforce and I am delighted to be joined by so many distinguished individuals.

Beth Hart, Director of Supply Chain at McDonald's UK and Ireland said:

At McDonald's we are focussed on using our scale for good in order to reduce our environmental impact; for example globally by 2030 in partnership with our suppliers we have committed to a 31 per cent reduction in emissions intensity across our global supply chain. Working with our suppliers, we also have a commitment to eliminating deforestation from our global supply chains by 2030.

The GRI taskforce presents the opportunity to further identify and address some of the biggest challenges we all face in partnership, and we look forward to collaborating across industry and various centres of excellence to continue to reduce our environmental impact.

Dr Rhian-Mari Thomas, Chief Executive Officer for the Green Finance Institute said:

Finance has a key role to play in achieving the aims of the GRI. There are clear synergies between government and private sector as we look to scale up potential financial solutions to support sustainable supply chains. As the principal interface between government and the private sector with regards green finance, the Green Finance Institute is excited to be contributing to the work of the Taskforce.

Further information and taskforce members

Sir Ian Cheshire

Dame Helena Morrissey	Legal and General
Rebecca Marmot	Unilever
Rhian-Mari Thomas OBE	Green Finance Institute
Amine Bel Hadj Souлами	BNP Paribas
Julian Roberts	Willis Towers Watson
Bas Rüter	Rabobank

Chair of the taskforce

UK Head of Personal Finance
Chief Sustainability Officer
CEO
Global Head Sustainable Finance
Managing Director, Alternative Risk Transfer Parametric Solutions
Director of Sustainability

Sir Ian Cheshire

Mike Barry	Formerly M&S
Nick Martell-Bundock	Cargill PLC
Christopher Stewart	Olam
Kené Umeasiegbu	Tesco
Berry Wiersum	Sappi
Keith Kenny	McDonald's
Tanya Steele	WWF-UK
Dominic Waughray	World Economic Forum
Melissa Pinfield	FOLU
Bernice Lee OBE	Chatham House
Anna Collins	NGO Forest Coalition

Chair of the taskforce

Formerly Director of Plan A and Sustainable Business
Senior Director of Sustainable Development
Head of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability
Head of Environment
CEO
Global Vice President Sustainability
UK CEO
Managing Director, Head of the Centre for Global Public Goods
Programme Director
Executive Director, Hoffmann Centre for Sustainable Resource Economy
Head of NGO Forest Coalition

News story: Global Resource Initiative taskforce: greening the UK's environmental footprint

A taskforce of leaders from business and environmental organisations meets for the first time to consider actions the UK can take to green its international supply chains and leave a lighter footprint on the global environment.