

The Agency has produced a full consultation document that looks in more detail at the issues outlined in this leaflet, and provides questions for comment. The document is available in hard copy from:

Dr. Giles Phillips,
Head of Water Resources,
Environment Agency,
PO Box 217,
Patchway,
Bristol. BS32 4XB

The report is available in both English and Welsh. We welcome any written comments that you may have on all, or any, of the issues. Please send your comments to the previous address.

Alternatively, the document is available on the Agency's web site and responses can be made using the feedback form. The web site addresses are on the back of this leaflet.

PLEASE SEND ALL COMMENTS BY 31ST JANUARY 2000

Following consultation we will consider the responses and publish a report outlining the results. This report and the responses to the consultation will be used to shape the Agency's strategies for managing water resources in England and Wales. These strategies will be made available by the end of December 2000.

The issues

The diagram on the inside of this leaflet outlines the issues on which we are consulting. The full consultation document, available from the Agency, includes more information on each of these issues.

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MANAGEMENT AND CONTACTS:

The Environment Agency delivers a service to its customers, with the emphasis on authority and accountability at the most local level possible. It aims to be cost-effective and efficient and to offer the best service and value for money.

Head Office is responsible for overall policy and relationships with national bodies including Government.

Rio House, Waterside Drive, Aztec West,
Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4UD
Tel: 01454 624 400 Fax: 01454 624 409

Internet World Wide Web www.environment-agency.gov.uk
www.environment-agency.wales.gov.uk

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REGIONAL OFFICES

ANGLIAN
Kingfisher House
Goldhay Way
Orton Goldhay
Peterborough PE2 5ZR
Tel: 01733 371 811
Fax: 01733 231 840

MIDLANDS
Sapphire East
550 Streetsbrook Road
Solihull B91 1QT
Tel: 0121 711 2324

SOUTHERN
Guildbourne House
Chatsworth Road
Worthing
West Sussex BN11 1LD
Tel: 01903 832 000
Fax: 01903 821 832

SOUTH WEST
Manley House
Kestrel Way
Exeter EX2 7LQ
Tel: 01392 444 000



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EA - Water Resources Box 3

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HEAD OFFICE

Rio House, Waterside Drive,
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Bristol BS32 4UD



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Sustainable Water
Resources for the Future

October 1999

Sustainable water resources for the future

The Environment Agency is asking for your views to help shape the way that we will manage water resources in England and Wales over the next 25 years. This leaflet explains:

- why it is important to let us know what you think;
- how you can get involved; and
- the issues on which we are consulting.

Your view of the future

We all use water every day in our homes and at work, which means that we all have an impact on water resources. The Environment Agency is concerned with reconciling the pressure that society places on water resources with the need to ensure that sufficient water is available to protect the natural environment.

To help us take a fresh look, we need to know what you think about the way we manage water resources, and the reasonable demands that we, as a society, can place on the environment. We welcome your comments on the issues facing our water resources, on information we should take into account and on the approaches to water management we might adopt. Our aim is to offer a framework within which all interested parties can work in the coming years, to ensure that realistic demands for water are met and those aspects of our environment which depend on water are protected.

The consultation process

The consultation runs from October 1999 to the end of January 2000. The Agency will be asking organisations and individuals what they think about a number of water resources issues. Consultees include local and central government, national and local interest groups, business, industry and agriculture, environmental groups and charities, non-governmental organisations, interested members of the public and other water users.

Should water resources be developed locally?

What environment should we protect?

Should water resources and supplies be a consideration in the planning system?

Is our individual use of water sustainable?

Water efficiency - should the Agency set targets for all users?

How might competition in the water industry affect sustainable water resources management?

How far should leakage control be pursued?

**SUSTAINABLE WATER
RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE:
VALUES AND CHALLENGES**

What are the main dependencies between rural land-use and water resources?

Is water undervalued?

How should we respond to climate change?

Should we prioritise access to water resources?

Are customer restrictions an appropriate and effective way of saving water?

How should we work out which water resource options are most acceptable?