

7. THE TRUE VALUE OF WATER

A Danish perspective on how we can shape our water future

In Denmark, we value our water. We care for how we extract it, use it and release it back to nature. We consider water a valuable resource in the circular economy and a contribution to reaching our green energy and climate goals. Above all, we value water for its potential to improve lives.

Let's protect our drinking water

Everyone deserves water that is clean and safe to drink. In Denmark, our drinking water origins entirely from groundwater. Our strategy is to protect our groundwater resources and in return, our drinking water only receives minimal treatment. Most waterworks simply pump, filtrate and distribute it to the consumers. We monitor it carefully and work to secure clean groundwater for future generations as well.

Let's care for every drop

Water is a scarce resource - and every drop counts. We must make the most of the water we have. In Denmark, we have a low water consumption. The average Dane consumes just over 100 liters a day, our water loss is around 8% and our industries are increasingly focusing on water efficiency and reuse in their production. The price is based on full cost recovery, which ensures a reliable and efficient water supply 24 hours a day. Now let's fight to make every drop count worldwide.

Let's use our wastewater as a resource

Wastewater should no longer be thought of as a problem. Instead, let's turn our wastewater treatment plants into energy and resource recovery facilities where we can extract phosphorous and produce organic fertilizer and biogas. In Denmark, we also aim to utilise wastewater even further up the value chain to produce products such as biofuels and bioplastics.

Let's move towards an energy and climate neutral water cycle

Water plays a key role in creating a sustainable world. It is important to make sure our water management is sustainable as well. In Denmark, we use a minimum of energy to pump and treat water. We continuously work to be energy efficient and we contribute to a greener and more flexible energy system by producing energy from wastewater. In fact, some facilities are now producing more electricity than they consume. By 2030, the Danish water sector aims to be energy and climate neutral across the entire water cycle.

Let's use rainwater to create resilient and liveable cities

Rainwater can improve urban life if it is managed wisely. In Denmark, we store and delay rainwater and stormwater in parks, streets and football fields to create both resilient and liveable cities for a growing population. By doing so, we adapt to the

changing climate and weather patterns as well as increase our biodiversity. So, while we may not be fans of rainy days, we appreciate what rainwater can do for us.

Let's swim in our city harbours

Water can be used actively in urban development. Waterfront areas and blue-green infrastructure can transform neighbourhoods and create economic growth. By treating our wastewater and managing our stormwater in underground basins, we have transformed polluted inner-city harbours into urban oases. So when the weather permits, you can go fishing or swimming in the harbour in Danish cities.

Let's collaborate and solve the global water challenges

We want to connect, inspire and learn from each other in global partnerships - and work together to contribute to a sustainable world. Water is one of our most valuable resources and it plays into many other agendas like adapting to and mitigating climate change and increasing biodiversity. Through national and global partnerships across sectors, we can deliver on the UN Sustainable Development Goals on water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities and communities and life on land and under water.

Water is **life**. And with the right care for water, we can make better lives.

The partners behind Water Vision Denmark aim to further innovation in the Danish water sector, increase Danish export of necessary water technologies to the world and contribute to job creation across the water sector.

WATER VISION DENMARK
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Water

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