

Questionnaire for public consultation on Water Efficiency in Buildings

Water is one of our most important resources; it sustains ecosystems and regulates our climate. But it's a finite resource, and less than 1% of the world's fresh water is accessible for direct human use. Competition for fresh water poses a growing risk to the economy, human communities and the ecosystems they rely on. If climate change keeps raising average temperatures across Europe, water is expected to become even scarcer in many areas.

Note: Replying to the following questions will take about 25 minutes of your time. Thank you for your interest

Part I. Your situation

1. Where are you based? * (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Bulgaria
- ☐ Cyprus
- ☐ Czech R.
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Estonia
- ☐ Finland
- ☐ France

- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Greece
- ☐ Hungary
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Latvia
- ☐ Lithuania
- ☐ Luxembourg
- ☐ Malta
- ☐ Netherlands
- ☐ Poland
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Romania
- ☐ Slovakia
- ☐ Slovenia
- ☐ Spain
- ☐ Sweden
- ☐ United Kingdom

2. Do you live in a town or rural area? ^{*} (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- ☐ Town

☐ Rural area

3. Do you own or rent the place where you live? ^{*} (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

☐ I am the owner

☐ I am a tenant

4. Dwelling & household type you live in

Choose dwelling and household type.

	Single occupancy household	Household of 2	Household of 3	Household of 4	Household of more than 4
Single family dwelling optional	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Multi-household dwelling (less than 8 floors) optional	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
High-rise multi-household dwelling (9 floors and higher) optional	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Do you live in a ^{*} (compulsory)

(at most 1 answer)

- ☐ Old building (built before 1971)
- ☐ Recent building (built between 1971 and 2001)
- ☐ New building (built after 2001)

Part II. Your individual water management

6. Are water meters installed in your dwelling? * (compulsory)

(at most 1 answer)

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, there is shared meter in the multi-household dwelling
- ☐ Yes, my household has its own basic meter
- ☐ Yes, my household has a smart meter

7. Do you know how much you pay for the water you use? * (compulsory)

(at most 1 answer)

- ☐ Yes, and it depends upon how much I use
- ☐ Yes, but it does not depend upon how much I use
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't have to pay for the water I use

8. Do you think that the current price you pay for the water represents the real value of the water in your country/region/city? * (compulsory)

(at most 1 answer)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, it is too high

☐ No, it is too low

☐ I don't know

9. If the amount you pay for water were to increase at what level would you be willing to take additional measures to save more water? ^{*} (compulsory)

(at most 1 answer)

☐ 10 - 20%

☐ 20 - 50%

☐ More than 50%

☐ The price would not influence me

10. Do you have a system for using grey water installed in your household?

Through water reuse and harvesting, non-potable water sources can substitute potable water for specific uses in buildings (e.g. toilet flushing or gardening), where the lower water quality does not affect consumer's health. Water reuse relates to collecting and reusing grey water^[1], i.e. wastewater generated from domestic activities such as laundry, dishwashing, and bathing. Water harvesting relates to collecting and storing rainwater from roofs, impermeable surfaces and tanks so that it can be used for the same purposes as grey water. Some experience shows that rainwater harvesting could save 20 to 50% of the total potable water use in a standard home, whereas grey water recycling could save 5 to 35%.

These methods result in saving water and energy and reduced costs as well as a lower pressure on the environment.

[1] "Grey" water must be distinguished from "black" water, which contains human waste.

^{*} (compulsory)

(at most 1 answer)

☐ Yes

☐ No

11. Are you willing to install a system making possible the use of grey water in your household?*

(compulsory)

(at most 1 answer)

☐ Yes

☐ Yes, but only if it is part of a new construction I am buying

☐ Yes, but only if I am carrying out a major refurbishment anyway

☐ Yes, but only if it pays back in less than 5 years

☐ Yes, but only if it pays back in less than 10 years

☐ Yes, but only if financial incentives are provided to reduce payback time

☐ No

12. For which purposes would you/do you use grey water in your household?

Please press CTRL to select several answers.

* (compulsory)

☐ Gardening

☐ Flushing toilets

☐ Washing clothes

☐ Cleaning

☐ Other

☐ I would not use grey water in my household

13. Do you have a system for collecting and using rain water installed in your household?

Additional information in Question 10

* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

☐ Yes

☐ No

14. Are you willing to install a system making possible the use of rain water in your household? * (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

☐ Yes

☐ Yes, but only if it is part of a new construction I am buying

☐ Yes, but only if I am carrying out a major refurbishment anyway

☐ Yes, but only if it pays back in less than 5 years

☐ Yes, but only if it pays back in less than 10 years

☐ Yes, but only if financial incentives are provided to reduce payback time

☐ No

15. For which purposes would you/do you use harvested rain water in your household?

Please press CTRL to select several answers.

(optional)

- ☐ Gardening
- ☐ Flushing toilets
- ☐ Washing clothes
- ☐ Cleaning
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I would not use harvested rainwater in my household

Part III. Your awareness of water scarcity and drought-related issues

16. Has there been drought or water scarcity in the area you live within the past five years?

Drought refers to a temporary decrease in water availability, for example, when it doesn't rain over a long period of time.

Water scarcity occurs when demand for water exceeds the available sustainable resources. You should be aware that water scarcity situations are not only limited to the southern, more dry regions, they appear also in different areas in the northern river basins of Europe.

* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, drought
- ☐ Yes, water scarcity
- ☐ Yes, both drought and water scarcity
- ☐ I don't know

17. What do you think is the more important reason for water scarcity in your region?* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- ☐ Human activities
- ☐ Climate change/Less rainfall

18. Which of the following sectors do you think could contribute the most to water saving in your region? (*Rank in order of magnitude of contribution, 1=greatest, 3=lowest*)

	1	2	3
Agriculture optional	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Households optional	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Industry optional	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Part IV. Your views on water efficiency in buildings

The European Commission is assessing the need for EU-wide measures to improve water efficiency in buildings. At least 20% of water is wasted due to inefficiency and the Commission estimates that in some regions, up to 30% of the water consumed in buildings could be saved.

19. Do you think EU action would add value, and if so, why?

(To what extent are the following justifications relevant for action at EU level on buildings' water efficiency?)

Rank each justification from 1= not important, to 5=very important)

	1	2	3	4	5
<p>Many water resources are shared among several Member States and there is little incentive for some to become more water efficient if others don't</p> <p><small>* compulsory</small></p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>There are only a few initiatives at Member State level, and they are quite varied. Targeted EU action would foster additional initiatives and complement them.</p> <p><small>*</small></p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<div>compulsory</div> <p>Access for all citizens to the best water-saving products requires harmonisation of certain technical requirements for buildings across the EU; this could not be achieved by Member States alone.</p> <div>*</div> <div>compulsory</div>					
	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<p>EU action could make the information about water efficiency in buildings more transparent and more comparable and therefore improve the</p>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

awareness of investors, owners and tenants * compulsory					
The extent of water savings achieved would be greater than if no EU action were taken, and the energy savings (for heating, pumping and treatment) would therefore also be greater. * compulsory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't think EU action has added value, the issue should be dealt with at	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

national or local level					
* compulsory					
Other optional	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. What would motivate you to change the habits that affect your water consumption?

Rank each from 1= not important, to 5=very important

	1	2	3	4	5
Higher water prices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* compulsory					
Better information on my current water usage (metering)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* compulsory					
Better and reliable information on the current water usage of the buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<div><div><div>*</div><div>compulsory</div></div><div>Better information on the water usage of water-using products on the market (taps, showerheads, toilets, washing machines, dishwashers)</div><div><div>*</div><div>compulsory</div></div></div>					
	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
<div><div><div>*</div><div>compulsory</div></div><div>Information on the drought and water scarcity situation in my area</div><div><div>*</div><div>compulsory</div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
<div><div><div>*</div></div><div>Information campaigns explaining why and how to save water</div><div><div>*</div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>

<div>compulsory</div>					
Financial incentives for encouraging water savings (e.g. discounts for water saving devices)	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div>*</div> <div>compulsory</div>					
Penalties for excessive consumption (e.g. higher tariff per unit consumption above a threshold quantity)	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div>*</div> <div>compulsory</div>					
Advisory services (providing individual advice on water savings)	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

<p>*</p> <p>compulsory</p> <p>I will not change my habits</p> <p>*</p> <p>compulsory</p> <p>Other</p> <p>optional</p>					
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. Considering future EU action on water efficiency in buildings, which measures would you consider useful?

Rank each from 1= not useful, to 5=very useful

	1	2	3	4	5
<p>A binding EU law</p> <p>*</p> <p>compulsory</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>EU guidance on water efficiency in buildings</p> <p>*</p> <p>compulsory</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>An EU public information campaign</p> <p>*</p> <p>compulsory</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<p>A new pricing policy</p> <p>*</p> <p>compulsory</p> <p>The introduction of metering across the EU</p> <p>*</p> <p>compulsory</p> <p>A new pricing policy combined with metering across the EU</p> <p>*</p> <p>compulsory</p> <p>Region-specific implementation of the measures taking account of the water scarcity situation</p> <p>*</p> <p>compulsory</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other optional	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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22. How important would the following policies and measures be as components of EU action on water efficiency in buildings?

Rank each (including sub-categories) from 1= not important, to 5=very important

3 policy levels - Horizontal Policies, Product, and Building level policies were identified for further assessment. Regarding the Product and Building levels, different policy instruments are further investigated based on progressively stricter implementing measures: voluntary scheme, mandatory scheme and minimum requirements.

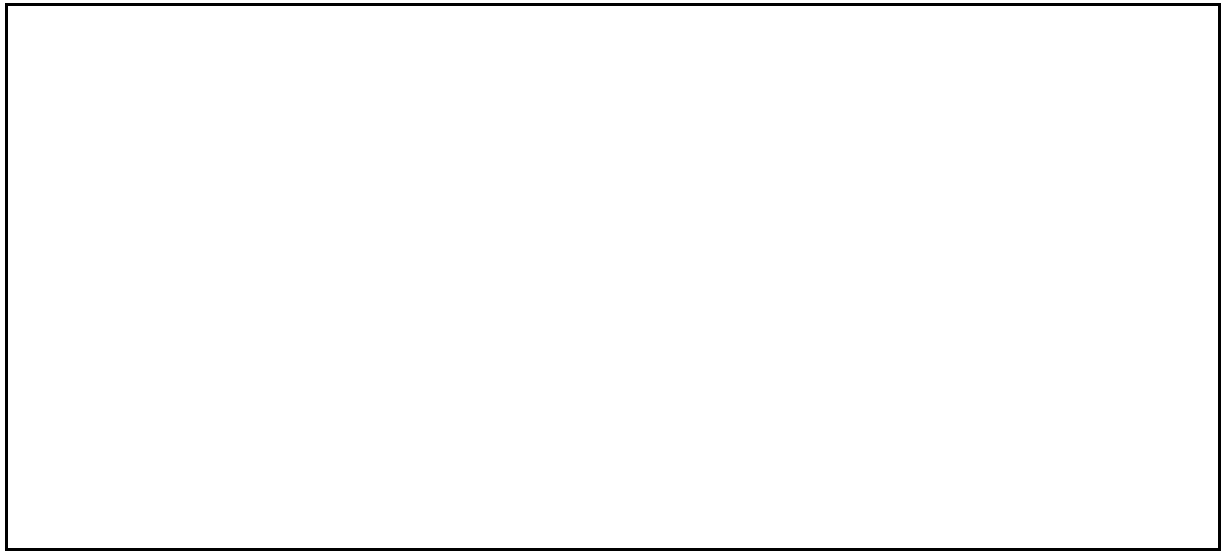
	1	2	3	4	5
Metering/smart metering (Horizontal policies) * compulsory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pricing strategy (Horizontal policies) * compulsory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Awareness raising/education (Horizontal policies)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<div><div><div>*</div><div>compulsory</div></div><div>Voluntary water-efficiency labelling for water-using products (Product-level policies)</div></div>					
	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>
<div><div><div>*</div><div>compulsory</div></div><div>Mandatory water-efficiency labelling for water-using products (Product-level policies)</div></div>					
	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>
<div><div><div>*</div><div>compulsory</div></div><div>Minimum water-efficiency standards for water-using products (Product-level policies)</div></div>					
	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>
<div><div><div>*</div><div>compulsory</div></div><div>Voluntary water-performance auditing/rating of buildings</div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div></div></div>

(Building-level policies) * compulsory					
Mandatory water-performance auditing/rating of buildings (Building-level policies) * compulsory	○	○	○	○	○
Minimum water-performance requirements of buildings (Building-level policies)* compulsory	○	○	○	○	○
Certification scheme for grey water reuse and (rain water) harvesting (Building-level policies) * compulsory	○	○	○	○	○

23. What are the most challenging issues that the EU should acknowledge when considering action to improve water efficiency in buildings?

(optional)



24. What in your view should the EU do or propose to improve water efficiency in buildings? [\(optional\)](#)

