



## ENERGY AND RECYCLING: Water

Water is our most precious resource and is used every day in a multitude of ways: drinking, cooking, washing and as a power source.

### Water wastage

Water can be wasted so easily through damaged water pipes and through human waste (e.g. leaving the tap running).

In the UK we have hosepipe bans in some areas during certain months. This is because there might not have been enough rainfall in the year to meet demand, meaning that water use has to be restricted in order to ensure there is enough to go around.

In other countries the effects of less water are much more severe. Droughts are very common in certain places, such as many parts of Africa, where there is so little rain and hardly any water supplies. The water that is available is not always clean, or treated, and as a result, hundreds of people die each day. It's vital that ways are found not only to purify existing water but also to conserve it.

### Water conservation

Wherever we are, it's important to conserve water by using it sensibly and avoiding waste. Some simple tips over here include:

- turning the tap off while brushing your teeth
- having quick showers instead of baths
- fixing leaky or dripping taps and damaged pipes and drains
- collecting and reusing rain water.

Rain water replenishes the planet by providing drinking water for the plants, animals and humans that live here. Rain water falling on homes can be collected by the pipes on your roof (gutters). This water is then taken into the outside drains. However, rain water can also be collected from the gutters in containers called 'water butts'. The rain water is stored in these containers for later use (e.g. watering the garden, washing the car or even for flushing the toilet), which can reduce the need to use the treated and cleaned water that's so expensively pumped into our homes.

### Water facts

- A quarter of the Earth's population does not have access to safe drinking water.
- 75% of the human brain is made up of water.
- Water expands by 9% when frozen, making it less dense than liquid water, which is why ice floats.
- 97% of the Earth's water is undrinkable; 2% is stored in the polar ice caps leaving only 1% of all water on Earth available for human consumption!



### Did you know?

- Humans can live for four weeks without food, but only one week without water.
- Out of all the water treated by the public water system in the UK only 1% is actually used for drinking or cooking.