

Questionnaire for public consultation on Water Efficiency in Buildings

Part I. Your situation

1. Where are you based?	Belgium
2. Do you live in a town or rural area?	Town
3. Do you own or rent the place where you live?	I am a tenant
4. Dwelling & household type you live in	
Single family dwelling	
Multi-household dwelling (less than 8 floors)	Household of 3
High-rise multi-household dwelling (9 floors and higher)	
5. Do you live in a	Old building (built before 1971)

Part II. Your individual water management

6. Are water meters installed in your dwelling?	No
7. Do you know how much you pay for the water you use?	No
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?	No, it is too low
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?	The price would not influence me
10. Do you have a system for using grey water installed in your household?	No

<p>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%.</p> <p>These methods result in saving water and energy and reduced costs as well as a lower pressure on the environment.</p>	
<p>[1] "Grey" water must be distinguished from "black" water, which contains human waste.</p>	
<p>11. Are you willing to install a system making possible the use of grey water in your household?</p>	<p>Yes, but only if I am carrying out a major refurbishment anyway</p>
<p>12. For which purposes would you/do you use grey water in your household?</p> <p><i>Please press CTRL to select several answers.</i></p>	<p>Gardening Flushing toilets Other</p>
<p>13. Do you have a system for collecting and using rain water installed in your household?</p> <p><i>Additional information in Question 10</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p>14. Are you willing to install a system making possible the use of rain water in your household?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>15. For which purposes would you/do you use harvested rain water in your household?</p>	<p>Gardening Flushing toilets</p>

Please press CTRL to select several answers.

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?

No

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.

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)

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

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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.

4

Access for all citizens to the best water-saving products requires harmonisation of certain

5

technical requirements for buildings across the EU; this could not be achieved by Member States alone.	
EU action could make the information about water efficiency in buildings more transparent and more comparable and therefore improve the awareness of investors, owners and tenants	5
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.	4
I don't think EU action has added value, the issue should be dealt with at national or local level	1
Other	5

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

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

Higher water prices	5
Better information on my current water usage (metering)	5
Better and reliable information on the current water usage of the buildings	5
Better information on the water usage of water-using products on the market (taps, showerheads, toilets, washing machines, dishwashers)	4
Information on the drought and water scarcity situation in my area	4
Information campaigns explaining why and how to save water	4
	4

Financial incentives for encouraging water savings (e.g. discounts for water saving devices)	
Penalties for excessive consumption (e.g. higher tariff per unit consumption above a threshold quantity)	3
Advisory services (providing individual advice on water savings)	4
I will not change my habits	1
Other	5

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

A binding EU law	5
EU guidance on water efficiency in buildings	3
An EU public information campaign	5
A new pricing policy	4
The introduction of metering across the EU	5
A new pricing policy combined with metering across the EU	4
Region-specific implementation of the measures taking account of the water scarcity situation	4
Other	5

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.

Metering/smart metering (Horizontal policies)	4
Pricing strategy (Horizontal policies)	4
Awareness raising/education (Horizontal policies)	5
Voluntary water-efficiency labelling for water-using products (Product-level policies)	2
Mandatory water-efficiency labelling for water-using products (Product-level policies)	4
Minimum water-efficiency standards for water-using products (Product-level policies)	5
Voluntary water-performance auditing/rating of buildings (Building-level policies)	2
Mandatory water-performance auditing/rating of buildings (Building-level policies)	4
Minimum water-performance requirements of buildings (Building-level policies)	5
Certification scheme for grey water reuse and (rain water) harvesting (Building-level policies)	4

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

Key challenges are: Providing adequate information and service support for tailoring solutions to individual buildings. Improving the ease of use and reliability of grey water and rain water harvest systems. The Researching and improving the energy aspects of grey water and rain water use. Improving the marginal benefit of water efficiency systems to make them more attractive and ensuring that consumers and the construction industry understand that even marginal benefits are worth exploring. Water efficiency needs to be seen as part of the EU's wider resource efficiency efforts and integrated into that wider agenda. For example, the energy sector accounts for some 45% of water use. If the public perception of the intrinsic benefits and successes of, for example, energy efficiency and waste recycling can be harnessed -- by not treating water efficiency as separate from the wider resource efficiency agenda -- the resistance to change will be less.

24. What in your view should the EU do or propose to improve water efficiency in buildings?

Bring in regulation with regard to water metering. This should be done so that even individual flats are aware (and billed accordingly) for their water use. This would create a greater awareness of the problem. Fund more research into grey water and rain water recycling systems with an emphasis on retrofitting, as 70 per cent of our building stock will still be in use in 2050. Implement and enforce the already existing medium-term policies concerning water utility. Increase the level of R&D in water efficiency in buildings. Improve the data available on water consumption through data collection, better water monitoring and sensors, and improved assessment of non-traditional water resources. Additional public and private research are needed to augment the existing programme of scattered, fragmented and sub-critical capacity research.

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