

A 60 Second Guide To: Sustainable Development

Goal 6

Clean water and sanitation

Introduction

This goal seeks to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

The 8 aims of this goal are to:

- 1 Achieve universal and equal access to safe affordable drinking water for all.
- 2 Achieve access to adequate and equal sanitation for all and to end open defecation.
- 3 Improve water quality (reducing pollution, preventing the release of hazardous chemicals, reducing untreated wastewater and increasing recycling and safe reuse).
- 4 Increase water use efficiency and to ensure a sustainable supply of freshwater.
- 5 Have integrated water management that involves cooperation across borders.
- 6 Protect and re-establish water related ecosystems by 2020 (e.g. mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes).
- 7 Expand international cooperation and support for developing countries in water and sanitation related programmes (including water harvesting, desalination, wastewater treatment, recycling/reuse).
- 8 Support and help local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

Background information

Chapter 18 of Agenda 21 (the United Nations Sustainable Development Action Plan) focuses on water and sanitation improvement. Initiatives such as the 'Water for life' Decade have been launched to promote and fulfil international commitments made at these meetings.

The Millennium Development Declaration of 2000 called for the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water as well as those without access to basic sanitation to be halved by 2015. Although the proportion of global population using improved drinking water increased to 91%, it is estimated that 663 million still do not have access to improved drinking water sources.

Further Reading/Linked Resources

- Agenda 21, chapter 18



For more information and to take part in the Global Learning Programme please see: www.glp-e.org.uk and [@glp_e](https://twitter.com/glp_e)
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