

Water and Sanitation in the News

Companies get serious about water use

Water is unlike any other commodity on Earth.

For a start, we can't live without it, for very obvious reasons. But it also underpins pretty much every activity we pursue in life - not just in our everyday lives, but in growing food, energy production and industry both large and small-scale.

Water is also unique in that it's pretty much indestructible - unlike most resources, it doesn't break down when heated up, but evaporates, constantly changing form to be transported to another place at another time. As Betsy Otto, global director at the World Resources Institute's (WRI) Water Programme, says, "the water we drink today dropped off the nose of Tyrannosaurus rex".

This may help explain why this most precious of resources is free. For despite being incomparably more precious than any amount of gold, platinum or diamond, in most places on Earth water holds practically no financial value whatsoever.

So much so that more than a billion people currently live in water scarce regions, according to the WRI, a number that could grow to 3.5 billion by 2025. Indeed demand for water is projected to rise by 40% in the next 20 years. To make matters worse, food and clothing production has in recent years moved increasingly to areas of water shortages - typically developing countries that have welcomed the opportunity to establish industries, creating jobs and wealth.

Indeed water and its delivery are often cheapest in the parts of the world where it is most scarce. As Richard Mattison, head of environmental research group Trucost, says: "If jeans were made in Denmark, fine. But they're not, they're produced in parts of the world that suffer from severe water stress."

Clearly something has to give.

"We are in a race to the bottom, as if there were no supply limitations," says Ms Otto. "That needs to change. We need to understand that we are out of balance and that there are very serious risks."

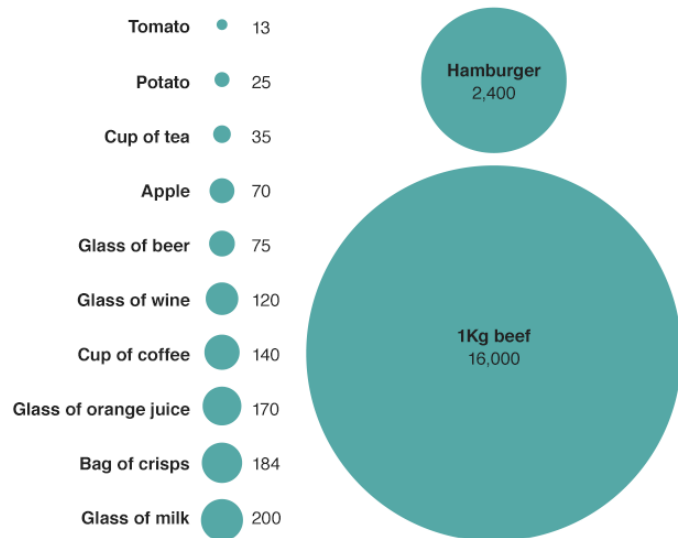
'Sea change'

But the message is starting to get through. There has been a "sea change in the last five years, led by forward looking companies", says Ms Otto, particularly in the clothing, food and drink industries...

Source: *BBC News*, 13 April 2016

The **Municipal Assistant™** system makes provision for **record keeping of historical data**, which is important for doing investigations and analyses, tracking trends in operational performance and the enabling of better service delivery planning – an important component in helping WTW & WWTW adequately cope with current and future load/demand levels.

How many litres of water does it take to produce a...



Source: IFAD

BBC

But water can no longer be seen as an infinite resource as shortages become ever more commonplace across the world.

Unprecedented population growth, allied with greater wealth leading to far more water-intensive meat consumption; climate change causing more erratic weather and extreme droughts; and pollution are all putting a huge strain on finite water reserves.

HISTORICAL DATA

This could be: WQ Data, Flow Data, Staff details, Suppliers, Literature, WTW Details, WWTW Details, Water Demand, Fixed Assets, Vehicles, Budgets, Stock & Spare Parts, etc.

CONTACT US: Tel: +27 (0)21 887 7161

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