



The future of water resources in Wales

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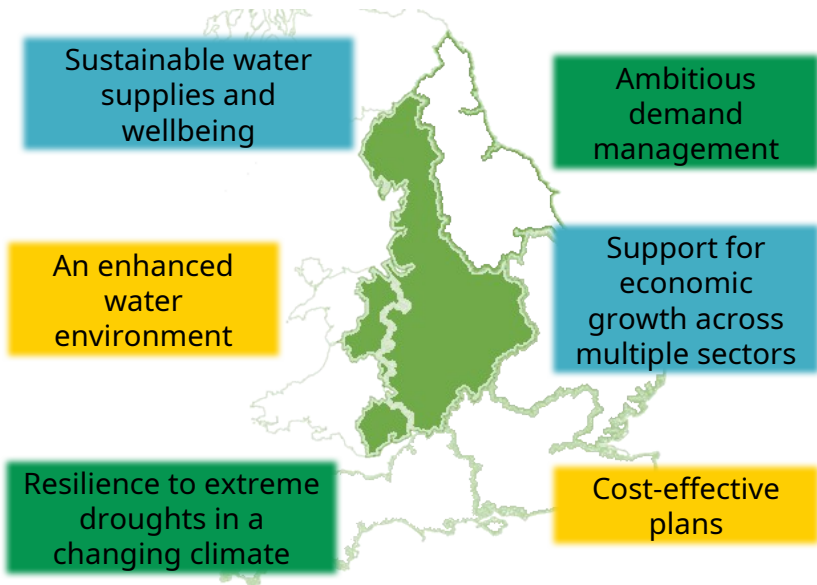
'We need to talk about water' - A Climate change and Water event in Wales

31 March 2023



Water Resources West is a cross-border collaboration

Our Ambition



Five core members committed to aligning their plans



See waterresourceswest.co.uk/publications



Reducing water demand in Wales is critical for resilience in Wales

Why?

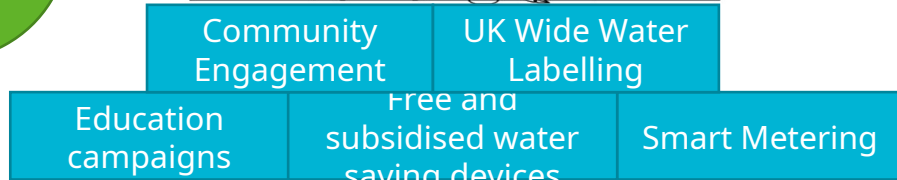
Climate change and the need for resilience are reducing the amount of water than can be reliably abstracted

How?

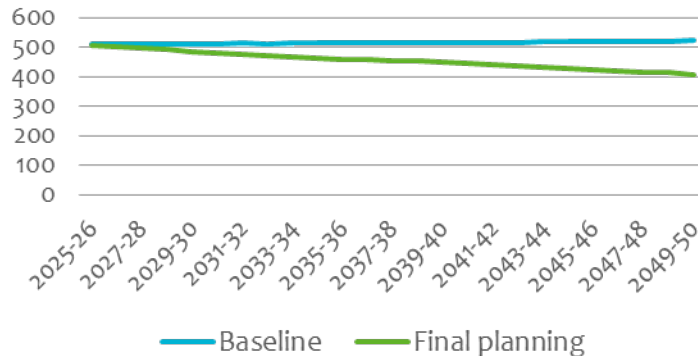
We need to reduce demand by over 100 million litres per day by 2050:

- 50% reduction in water company leakage
- 24% reduction in per capita consumption

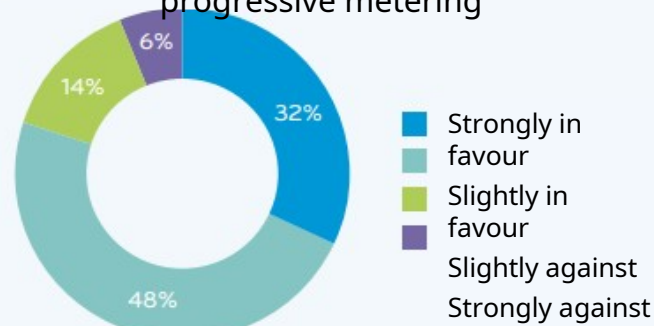
Also significant demand reductions in England



Water demand (MI/d)



Welsh Water customer views on progressive metering





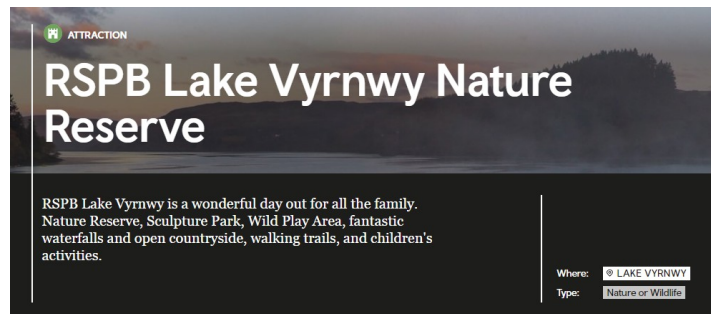
Catchment Partnership Working



Our vision is for an enhanced water environment, with abundant native species and functioning habitats, supporting wellbeing and the regional economy

Working in partnerships in catchments delivers sustainable natural resources. We have worked around Lake Vyrnwy on sustainable projects:

- Peatland restoration – current investment by Hafren Dyfrdwy is **700 ha**, delivering **37 KtCO₂** benefits, but much more is possible
- Ffridd management & creation
- Improve structure of broadleaf woodland
- Increasing peregrine & curlew populations
- Opportunities to deliver natural flood risk management in Upper Severn





Changing water transfers could bring benefits

- **No new transfers** proposed from Wales to England
- **No increase in the capacity** of existing transfers from Wales to England
- Proposal to potentially **use water** that goes from Lake Vyrnwy in a **different way**, with no increase to R. Dee abstraction as a result
- **Instead** of water going to the North West, **it could sometimes** go into the River Severn for use in the Midlands (from the 2030s) or the South East (from the 2040s or 2050s)
- **Range of volumes** being considered from 25 to 180 million litres per day (all within current licence limits)
- If it went ahead this diversion would occur **less than 15% of the time** on average
- **Could** require new pipelines in England
- **Costs paid by recipients**, not bill payers in Wales
- **Protecting resilience** of water supplies and **the environment** in Wales
- **Benefits for Wales** could arise through **additional investment** in catchments linked to change of use of existing transfers

Welsh customer views

“As long as there is sufficient water for the users in our area, I think it would be ok to share what we have, obviously as long as it was beneficial to us and nobody would be losing out.”

“This is potentially a good idea as long as there were fail safes in place so that we would not be without. After all we are the one that suffer the rain!”

