



Water Position Paper

Version 6 - 01 June 2012

WE DO COMMITMENT

We will reduce our water footprint in all the countries where we operate and all clients' sites by 2020.



The Water Context

Blue Planet, Scarce Water

We live on a watery planet, but less than 1% of all that freshwater is available for ecosystems and human use in rivers, lakes and aquifers. Yet, these life-giving freshwater systems face a host of threats from over-abstraction, fragmentation, pollution, climate change, and the ever-increasing demands of a growing population.

Water for more than Drinking




Healthy freshwater systems not only provide drinking water, they support a vast flow of services and economic goods. Water underpins virtually all food, fiber and energy production. In fact, while we need only drink 3-5 liters per day to remain healthy, the food we eat, clothes we wear, the energy we consume and products we use daily take tens of thousands of liters to produce.

Water, Woman and Local Communities



Clean, reliable access to water is integral to maintaining and supporting the quality of daily life. Recently, the UN General Assembly declared access to clean water and sanitation a human right, but over three billion people lack access to one or both. This is a major hurdle to economic development in much of the world. A further important consideration is the protection of public health via the promotion of the safe use of waste water.

Potential Business Impacts

Sodexo's water footprint – the water used in direct operations and indirect water use in our supply chains – is considerable; proper water management and conservation across the entire value chain is increasingly important.







-  **Rising Costs.** Increased competition for scarce water and potential declines in water quality in some parts of the world are expected to push water and sanitation costs higher. Furthermore, climate change and water-related natural disasters are expected to impact food production, quality and security, putting pressure on food prices.
-  **Increased Regulation.** New regulations on water use and effluents management may impose added obligations on our business. In some water-stressed South American countries, water management plans are already required as part of a license to operate.
-  **Brand Risk.** Sodexo's brand is very valuable and there are potential reputational risks to the brand as clients and consumers increase their awareness of these issues.



-  **Greater Accountability.** Though standards and measures for water reporting are still evolving, financial investors are requiring ever more transparency and accountability for water use and potential risk to company operations posed by water scarcity or water quality issues.
-  **Opportunities.** As water's true value is recognized, opportunities will arise to provide solutions to our clients in the sustainable management of their water and sanitation requirements. Understanding our own water footprint by geography and water source will position the company to take specific action in local areas of water scarcity.




The Sodexo Strategy on Water and Effluents

With the 2009 launch of the Better Tomorrow Plan, the Group reinforced its commitment to reduce our water footprint in all the countries where we operate and all clients' sites by 2020. Sodexo has developed a water and effluents strategy to maximize opportunities and minimize risks, which includes:

-  Measuring Sodexo's water footprint –using the Water Footprint Network methodology – using standard data and established methodologies that deal with site operations and complex supply chains.
-  Identifying supply chain “hot spots” by overlaying GIS data of water scarce regions with Sodexo's high volume agricultural commodities to define places for local action.
-  Defining physical, regulatory, financial and strategic risks, as well as business opportunities
-  Providing solutions to clients in the sustainable management of water and sanitation
-  Creating policies, procedures and guidelines to minimize operational risks and leverage business development opportunities
-  Raising internal and external stakeholder awareness.






Progress to Date

To support the Better Tomorrow Plan implementation, a Subject Matter Experts Working Group for water and effluents was established in 2010. This group meets on a regular basis and is being assisted by WWF as part of its technical agreement to work together globally on environmental and supply chain issues of mutual interest. This has started with seafood, agricultural commodities, water and energy and focuses on promoting environmental and sustainable supply-chain practices–To date, the Subject Matter Expert Working Group for water and effluents has:

-  Engaged major suppliers and clients to better understand their strategies and requirements.
-  Analyzed the Better Tomorrow Plan Inventory* conducted in FY2010 and found 3 key information points: 1) 67% of sites have taken basic steps* to reduce their water consumption; 2) 9% of sites have implemented water conservation programs; and 3) only 23% of sites have sub-metering, making water footprint calculations more difficult.
-  Prepared a Site Managers Awareness toolkit*, which includes a “Call to Action” document, a “What can I do?” guide, internal team and client presentations, and a “What can I do next....?” guide. All toolkit information is in the final stages of review.



Next Steps

-  Use the launch of the Site Managers Awareness toolkit to raise internal awareness about the importance of water, and identify strategies to raise the awareness of our clients and consumers.
-  Collaborate with suppliers to increase awareness within the broader supplier community of how to conserve water resources and further water stewardship.
-  Complete our Corporate Water footprint, set targets along with the identification of specific “hot spots” areas where we should focus our actions.
-  Use existing water initiatives at our sites to develop a resource guide that will help managers create and launch site-based water initiatives. The implementation of water initiatives at all of our sites will contribute to reducing our water footprint globally.
-  Finalize the implementation time line.

References

United Nations – UN Water.

Better Tomorrow Plan (BTP) – the new worldwide corporate citizenship and sustainability roadmap for the Sodexo Group. The roadmap outlines three priorities, 14 commitments, and one journey forward in 80 countries, at 34,000 client sites and engaging 380,000 employees.

The Better Tomorrow Plan Inventory is an annual site and country based survey that measures the progress and impact of Sodexo’s sustainable development actions.

Basic steps – refers to the specific nominated actions taken by Sodexo personnel at Site to reduce their consumption of water.

More info on Sodexo Corporate Citizenship is available on [Citizen](#) and www.sodexo.com. To share any advance communication drafts or projects you may have on the subject, please contact: Bettertomorrow.group@sodexo.com.

