

# Making our Homes more Water Efficient

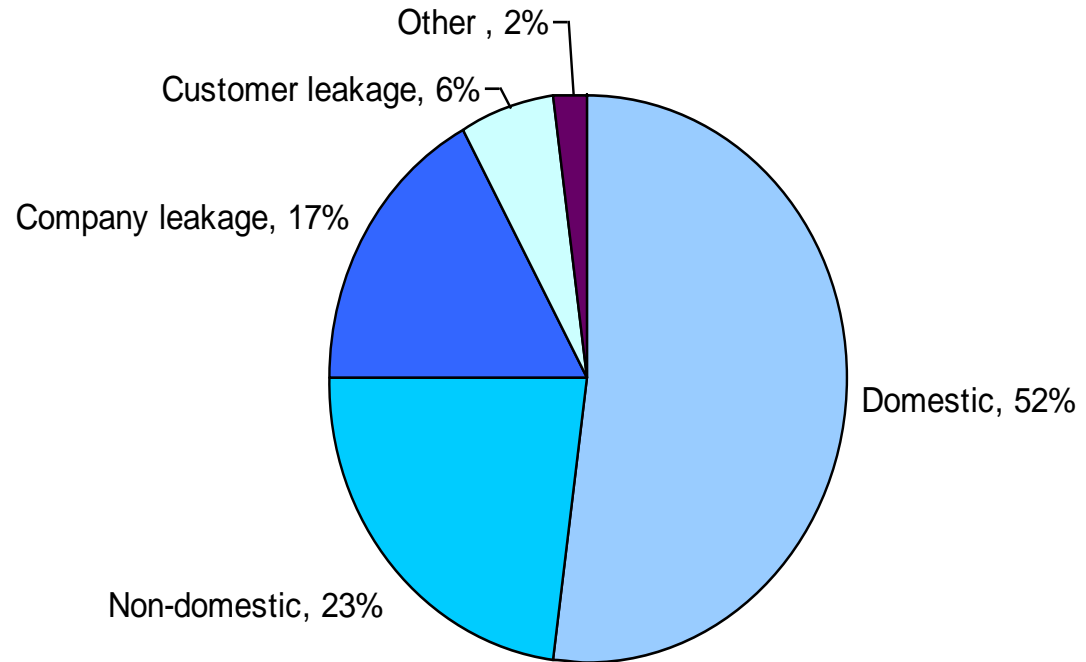
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# Water, water everywhere

- England is not as wet as we think!
- We have less water available per head of population than many Mediterranean countries.
- We're abstracting all of the available surface and ground water across much of England and Wales and in some cases we are already abstracting too much
- Not just a London and the Home Counties problem!

# What's Changing Water Use

- Demographics - We are living longer, we are more likely to live alone and there are just more of us
- We have more gadgets – dishwashers and jet washers
- We've turned bathing into a leisure activity – spa baths and powers showers

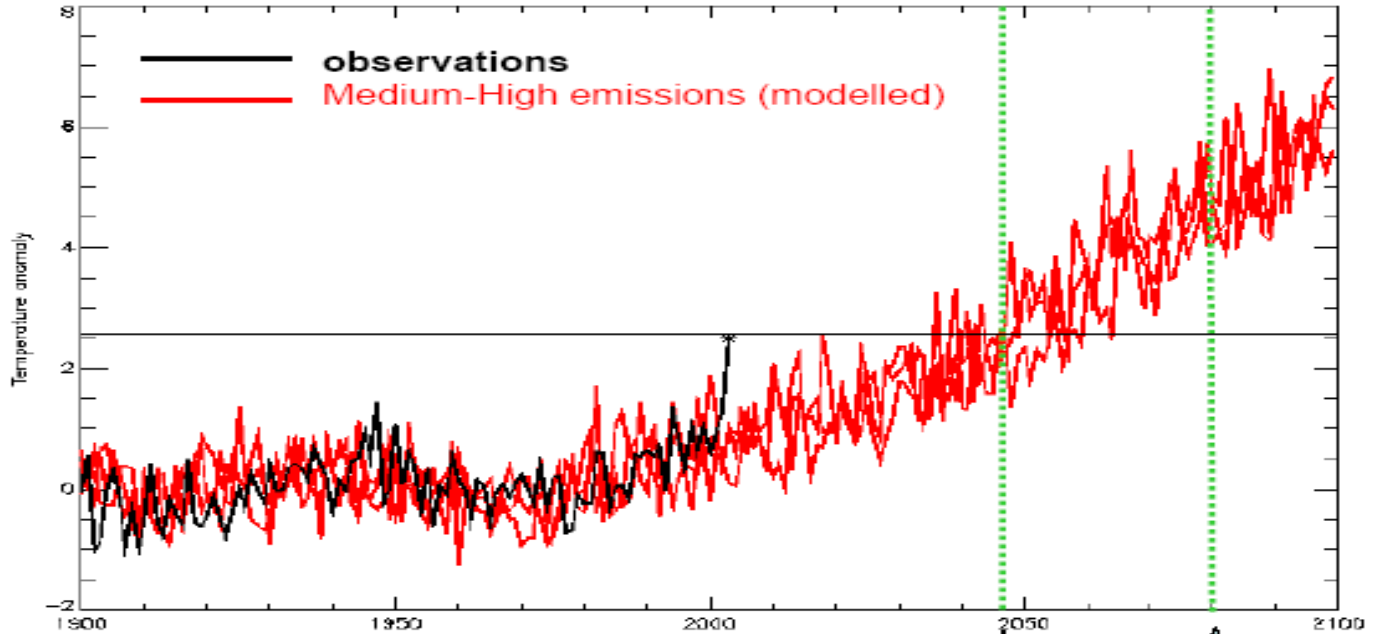


Overall water use has increased by 70% over past 30 years

# And its not just about water

- No only will demand increase further with climate change – hotter drier summers not necessarily offset by wetter winters
- But treating, pumping and heating water adds to climate change – and must play its part in action to tackle emissions.

European  
summer  
temperatures



# So what do we need to do

- Give people the tools to use water wisely
- Design in water efficiency in homes
- Use regulation where it makes sense – e.g. to change the market for water efficient fittings

On new homes – we have a major opportunity...

- 2 million new homes by 2016 and 3 million by 2020
- Requires 240,00 new homes per annum by 2016 (45,000 new social homes per annum by 2011)

# Bringing Water Efficiency into the Building Regulations

- Consultation last year looking at a number of options and asking about the possibility of both whole building water standards and fittings based standards
- That resulted in decision to introduce whole building performance standard - 125l/h/d for new homes and
- Agreement that Defra would consult in 2008 on introducing new & tougher standards for individual fittings within the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations
- Consider progressively more stringent targets for the future

# Building Regulation changes- Timetable

- Consultation on draft functional requirement and technical guidance (the Approved Document) as part of wider consultation on Part G – to be issued very shortly
- Publication of consultation findings late summer 2008
- Amendments to draft technical guidance and publication of completed AD by Autumn 2008
- Publicity and awareness raising campaign of new requirements
- New requirements come into force in April 2009

# Building Regulation changes- Showing compliance

- WATER SAP – approved methodology to calculate as built performance
- Methodology summarised in AD
- Product information to underpin the calculation – Defra leading
- Working with stakeholders to specify a database to hold and manage product data
- Working with industry to develop and look to industry to assemble, maintain and make available

# Code for Sustainable Homes

- Using Code to support regulatory change across many areas of building regulations. Getting developers to see the benefit of building to higher standards and consumers to demand more.
- Not compulsory to build to Code in private sector but from 1 May will be compulsory for every new home to have a rating.
- PPS on climate change also gives LAs ability to use to Code to require higher performance where viable
- Includes Water efficiency escalator: Level 1 and 2 – 120 l/h/d; Level 3 (new social homes) – 105 l/h/d; Level 5 and 6 (200+) – 80 l/h/d

## Living a greener future...

- Exemplary developments showing how we can develop communities which both provide for people's housing need and do so in a genuinely sustainable way
- Learning lessons for the rest of the country and beyond – each development to have one area of excellence beyond carbon
- In all cases aspiring to water neutrality for wider area around them
- Looking to achieve water to Code Level 3/4 standards before 2016 – 105 l/h/d; Code Level 5/6 after 2016 – 80 l/h/d

...Aspiring to water neutrality

- As for Eco-towns, aiming to achieve water neutrality especially water-stressed areas
- Total water use post-development less than or equal to total water use before
- Requires
  - Water efficient development
  - Retrofitting of existing homes and offices

## And existing buildings and infrastructure more generally...

- Obviously a huge amount of activity across Government – summarised in Future Water...
- Much more complicated than where you are working with new development
- Currently evaluating wide variety of options ranging from enabling policies, to behaviour change, to direct support packages
- Water fitting regulations and independent review on metering and billing will be critical.

- Water efficiency vital for future sustainability of water supply
- Need to make new buildings as water efficient as possible  
.....and soon
- Mustn't forget the deadweight of the existing stock and  
continue to look for ways of improving it
- We need to leave door open for future changes to regulation,  
to improve performance, raise standards and drive the market
- Last, but not least we need to make sure that we take the  
consumer with us