




A Review of Water Neutrality in the UK

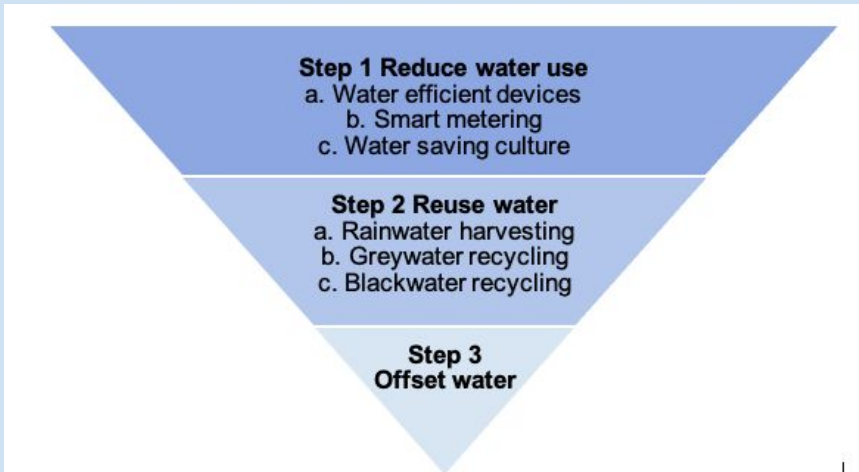
Definition: For every new development, water demand should first be minimised then any remaining water demand offset, so that the total water demand on the public water supply in a defined region is the same after development as it was before.

Benefits: water saving, carbon saving, money saving, environmental impact, improving resilience, enabling future growth. One water neutral home saves:

	112,000 litres of water saved annually (if all new houses in England were built water neutral - savings of approximately 691 million litres per day in 2030).
	0.11 MtCO ₂ equivalent per year in 2030 from operational emissions (if emissions from water use considered savings approx. 20 times higher).
	Annual savings on water and energy bills of around £44 (if the PCC in the home is 85 litres per person per day).

Barriers: low price of water, lack of targets, funding, focus on offsetting, multiple delivery partners, public awareness

Enablers: funding, supporting national and local policies, education and awareness, business resilience, good partnerships



Recommendations: National Planning Policy Framework should require the consideration of water neutrality in areas with constrained water resources. Local planning policies should require developers to work with water companies to minimise water demand impact for new developments over a threshold and target achieving water neutrality.