

Energy Saving Trust's response to Defra's consultation on environmental targets

Response submitted on 17th June 2022

Introduction

Energy Saving Trust is an independent organisation dedicated to promoting energy efficiency, low carbon transport and sustainable energy use. We aim to address the climate emergency and deliver the wider benefits of clean energy as we transition to net zero. We empower householders to make better choices, deliver transformative programmes for governments and support businesses with strategy, research and assurance – enabling everyone to play their part in building a sustainable future.

Energy Saving Trust welcomes the opportunity to respond to Defra's consultation on environmental targets.

Do you agree or disagree with the level of ambition proposed for a water demand target?
[Agree/Disagree/Don't know]

Energy Saving Trust strongly supports the introduction of a water demand target for England and Wales. We do not however have a view on the specific level of the proposed target.

While the consultation document notes that water demand reduction is essential to ensure that sufficient volumes of public water supply are available by 2050 there are many other benefits associated with reducing water demand. Indeed, we support the introduction of such a target because of the role it can play in reducing green house gas emissions - around 6% of the UK's total greenhouse gas emissions are from household water supply and use¹ and approximately 90% of these water related emissions are from heating water in the home². Reducing demand is therefore an essential part of ensuring that the UK meets its climate change targets. About 12% of a typical gas heated household's energy bill is from heating the water for showers, baths and hot water from

¹ https://UK_greenhouse_gas_emissions_provisional_figures_statistical_release.pdf

² <https://www.water.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Water-UK-Research-on-reducing-water-use.pdf>

the tap which means that reducing demand for water can also play an important role in reducing people's energy bills through saving hot water.

Reducing household demand for water is an area where Energy Saving Trust has considerable expertise. Energy Saving Trust has worked in partnership with Scottish Water for a number of years to help people in Scotland to reduce their energy bills and carbon footprints by taking simple steps to save water. This work includes the provision of free tailored water and energy saving advice and water efficiency devices to people through the Home Energy Scotland phonenumber (for further information about Home Energy Scotland please see: [Go green and save · Home Energy Scotland](#)), together with events and workshops to help people save water, energy and money. To date we have delivered water efficiency support to over 60,000 households as a result of our partnership with Scottish Water. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this work in more detail if you would find it useful.