

Water and sewerage companies

Environmental Performance Assessment 2023

For a version of this document in an accessible format, and for individual water and sewerage company data reports please visit:
<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-and-sewerage-companies-in-england-environmental-performance-report-2023>

Metric and units ¹	Total pollution incidents per 10,000km ² (actual)	Serious pollution incidents – actual number	Self-reported pollution incidents % ³	Discharge permit compliance ⁴ % (failing sites)	Satisfactory sludge use and disposal %	WINEP ⁵ scheme delivery on time %	Supply Demand Balance Index (SDBI) score	Performance star rating (out of 4) ¹
Anglian Water	40 (307)	11	89 (95)	98.4 (13)	99.43	99.6	100	★ ★ ☆ ☆
Northumbrian Water	33 (99)	0	94 (96)	98.3 (3)	100	100	100	★ ★ ★ ☆
Severn Trent Water	26 (239)	0	89 (99)	99.5 (4)	100	100	100	★ ★ ★ ★
Southern Water	59 (234)	13	69 (80)	99.4 (2)	99.28	100	100	★ ★ ☆ ☆
South West Water	111 (194)	2	82 (93)	96.2 (12)	99.77	98.8	100	★ ★ ☆ ☆
Thames Water	32 (350)	14	76 (93)	99.2 (3)	100	93.4	100	★ ★ ☆ ☆
United Utilities	28 (216)	1	94 (96)	99.0 (4)	100	100	100	★ ★ ★ ★
Wessex Water	36 (126)	1	94 (100)	99.0 (3)	100	100	100	★ ★ ★ ★
Yorkshire Water	26 (137)	5	75 (88)	99.7 (1)	99.84	100	100	★ ★ ☆ ☆
Sector - England	36 (1902)	47	84 (93)	98.8 (45)	99.85	99.2	100	
Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	30 (107)	7	70 (65)	98.0 (12)	99.84	100	99	★ ★ ☆ ☆

Red Significantly below target
 Amber Below target
 Green Achieved target or better
 R A G Red, amber, green metric thresholds

Note: These results are drawn, in part, from information submitted by the companies and may change as a result of subsequent audits and checking

Note: discharge permit compliance is a core metric, required to be green for a water company to achieve a 4 star performance rating - no company was affected by this rule in 2023

¹ Refer to the EPA metric guide for detailed information including how we calculate performance star ratings (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-and-sewerage-companies-in-england-environmental-performance-report-2023>)

² of sewer length ³ The figure in brackets is the combined self-reporting percentage for just sewage treatment works and pumping stations - this must be 90% or more for a green rating

⁴ with numeric water quality limits for treated wastewater at sewage treatment works and water treatment works ⁵ Water Industry National Environment Programme

Pollution incident performance

47

serious water quality incidents

46 from sewerage assets and 1 from a water supply asset

2,174

total water quality incidents

1,902 from sewerage assets and 272 from water supply assets

84%

incidents were self-reported

93% from just sewage treatment works and pumping stations combined

Compliance with licences and permits

98.8%

discharge permit compliance

out of 3,800 (STW and WTW), 45 sites failed numeric limits for treated wastewater

98.8%

abstraction & impoundment compliance

assessment continuing – so far out of 1,213 licences, 14 are recorded as non-compliant

273

permitted waste operations

14 compliance band C or D (must improve) and 6 band E (must significantly improve)

Sludge disposal and use

819,001

tonnes (dry solid) sludge dispatched

93.8% used in agriculture, 151,921 hectares land used for spreading

99.2%

Progress with environmental improvement schemes

completion of planned schemes in the EPA

3,481 environmental improvement schemes met their requirements within planned deadlines

100%

storm overflows with spill data

out of a total of 14,114 listed in the annual return dataset

Water resources planning (for the financial year ending March 2023)

140

litres Per Capita Consumption (PCC)

average household water use per person per day, above forecast for most companies

58.33%

properties with household meters

an increase of 1.4% from the previous year

2,312

megalitres per day total leakage

only 2 water companies kept leakage within planned levels

Flood and coastal erosion risk management

£268.5m

sewer flooding investment

including £87.8m to reduce the risk of sewer flooding to properties

5

Enforcement and sanctions

enforcement undertaking offers accepted

from 3 water companies, ranged from £50,000 to £1,000,000, totalling £1,762,500

4

completed prosecutions

against 4 water companies, fines ranged from £510,000 to £3,334,000, totalling £6,794,000