

Water and sewerage companies

Environmental Performance Assessment 2025

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-2025>

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 %	Performance star rating (out of 4) ¹
Anglian Water	48 (368)	12	94 (95)	98.2 (15)	100	100	★★☆☆
Northumbrian Water	50 (150)	2	89 (92)	98.3 (3)	100	100	★★☆☆
Severn Trent Water	19 (178)	2	88 (97)	99.3 (5)	100	100	★★★★
Southern Water	64 (253)	12	84 (90)	96.7 (11)	100	50.0	★☆☆☆
South West Water	51 (124)	3	71 (77)	98.1 (6)	100	94.2	★☆☆☆
Thames Water	35 (379)	24	80 (98)	88.2 (45)	100	24.5	★☆☆☆
United Utilities	43 (329)	2	92 (97)	98.2 (7)	99.94	100	★★☆☆
Wessex Water	47 (164)	4	93 (94)	98.7 (4)	100	100	★★☆☆
Yorkshire Water	50 (260)	13	82 (94)	99.0 (3)	100	93.2	★☆☆☆
Water and sewerage sector - England	41 (2,205)	74	87 (93)	97.4 (99)	99.99	80.2	
Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	30 (107)	9	78 (82)	98.1 (12)	100	100	★★☆☆

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

Note: These results are drawn from live Environment Agency systems and information submitted by the water and sewerage companies and therefore 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 and sewerage company to achieve a 4 star performance rating - no water and sewerage company was affected by this rule in 2025

Note: The supply demand balance index metric was suspended for 2025

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-2025>)

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

Source: Environment Agency
& Natural Resources Wales

Water and sewerage companies in England – sector facts 2025

Environmental Performance Assessment

16

stars achieved
collectively by the 9 water and sewerage companies, out of a possible 36

25

metric ratings achieved target
(green metric status) out of a total of 54

29

metric ratings below target
(red or amber metric status) out of a total of 54

Pollution incident performance

74

serious water quality incidents
72 from sewerage assets and
2 from a water supply asset

2,666

total water quality incidents
2,205 from sewerage assets and
461 from water supply assets

87%

incidents were self-reported
93% from just sewage treatment works
and pumping stations combined

Compliance with licences and permits

97.4%

discharge permit compliance
out of 3,783 (STW and WTW), 99 sites
failed numeric limits for treated wastewater

158

abstraction & impounding licences
with compliance breaches out of a total of
1,214 licences

316

permitted waste operations
57 compliance band C or D (must improve) and
16 band E (must significantly improve)

Sludge disposal and use

873,522

tonnes (dry solid) sludge dispatched
92.5% used in agriculture, 165,449 hectares
land used for spreading

Environmental improvement schemes

80.2%

completion of planned schemes in the EPA
502 environmental improvement schemes met
their requirements within planned deadlines

92.7%

active storm overflows reporting reliable data
out of a total of 14,146 listed in the annual return
dataset

Flood and coastal erosion risk management

£387.9m

sewer flooding investment
including £114.9m to reduce the risk
of sewer flooding to properties

Enforcement and sanctions

2

completed prosecutions
against 1 water and sewerage company,
totalling £1,215,000

19

enforcement undertaking offers accepted
from 6 water and sewerage companies, ranged
from £50,000 to £777,424, totalling £6,950,424