

Water: a vital resource

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The importance of water

Water is an essential resource for all living beings, for food and hygiene. However, more and more, water resources are under pressure from climate change and population growth.



The scarcity of water

This resource, however, is distributed differently across the planet, being so limited in certain regions that people, animals and plants die of thirst.



The waste of water throughout the world

Even so, water is being constantly polluted and wasted in different ways, whether in industry, in plumbing or even in the domestic use of this resource.



The waste of water in Portugal

In Portugal, only around 20% of the water supplies actually get consumed by the population while the rest of it is wasted. If this waste was stopped, that water could help millions of people.



The reason to be sustainable

For these reasons and many others we should save and reuse the water that is supplied to us, so that there is enough of this resource for people in need.



Saving water

All wasted water should be saved in every way possible.
Some simple ways to save water are:

- in discharges;
- turning off the tap water while washing your teeth;
- checking and correcting any leaks in your house;
- correctly turning off faucets,...



Reusing water

We must not only save water, but also reuse it in creative and innovative ways. Some ways of doing so are:

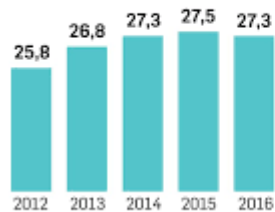
- Reusing the washing machines water;
- Reusing the water from showers to flush the toilet;
- Collecting rainwater in a barrel or in underground tanks in order to store it for later use – for watering plants, to wash the floor, for cattle,...

Industrial problems in Portugal

Industries in Portugal are also a part of the problem, being able to waste up to 9 giant pools per hour; as if this wasn't enough, they are also great threats in water pollution.

Perdas na rede

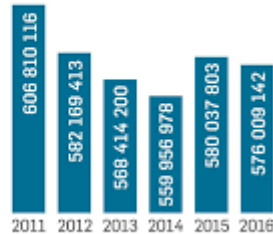
Em percentagem



Fonte: Entidade Reguladora dos Serviços de Águas e Resíduos

Água faturada

Em metros cúbicos/ano



The change we need in industry

This problem must be solved through resilience, sometimes also with multiple strikes and pressure from other organisations, in order to persuade (and encourage) companies to pursue more sustainable ways of production.



Conclusion

Unfortunately, the situation of water waste and pollution is a world problem and not just Portuguese. However, if water resources are correctly managed and we all do our part, we can reduce these huge numbers, for a more sustainable world.



Webgraphy

<https://www.dn.pt/sociedade/mais-consciencia-e-crise-levam-portugueses-a-gastar-menos-agua-8929018.html>

<https://www.industriaeambiente.pt/noticias/controlar-fugas-consumos-ilicitos-combater-desperdicio-agua/>

<https://www.publico.pt/2004/10/08/sociedade/noticia/tres-empresas-portuguesas-lideram-poluicao-da-agua-na-europa-1205441>

THANK YOU!

