

PRESS RELEASE 7th June 2023

All New Homes must be Water Efficient says Water Forum. The Water Forum calls for a national strategy for water conservation to make all new homes water efficient.

A secure supply of high-quality drinking water is essential for the health of every citizen and is critical for future economic growth and development. The population is set to rise by up to 40% by 2050 yet Uisce Éireann state that 58% of water supply zones have a supply risk at current demand. In recent years, we have experienced water supply restrictions during dry periods with national hosepipe bans in 2018 and 2020. Climate change will result in decreased rainfall in summer and longer dry and drought periods.

The Government has committed to building 33,000 homes every year for the next 10 years. This along with increasing population and greater economic activity will put additional demands on water resources. Climate change is predicted to reduce water availability. Making new homes water efficient could reduce domestic water demand by 20% and thus provide considerable water investment savings and reduce pressure on supplies.

“We sometimes forget that the water from our taps has been taken from a local river, lake or well and undergone a costly process of treatment and pumping before it reaches our homes,” says Dr Matt Crowe of the National Water Forum. “We need to pay a lot more attention to conserving this precious and expensive resource so that there is an adequate supply available as our population increases and our climate changes. At a minimum, we need to ensure that all new homes are built to be water efficient’.

Updating Building Regulations to include mandatory water efficiency measures such as;

- Low flow showerheads
- Aerated taps
- Dual flush toilets
- Rainwater harvesting

will reduce water demand in new buildings and provide energy saving benefits, reduce costs to the taxpayer and help the environment.

Civic Offices, Limerick Road
Nenagh, Co. Tipperary

e: info@nationalwaterforum.ie

w: www.thewaterforum.ie



Saving water will reduce demand and ease pressure on supplies. The Water Forum believe that the Government needs a committed strategy for water conservation that includes a programme of actions to implement water saving measures nationally. A national water conservation team should be established to develop and implement a government-led water conservation strategy.

End

[Water Forum Policy Position on Water Conservation](#)

Research report: [A Framework for Improving Domestic Water Conservation in Ireland](#)

Further information on the work of the Water Forum is available at www.thewaterforum.ie

Note to the Editor

The Water Forum (An Fóram Uisce) was established in 2018 to provide a platform for public engagement on all matters relating to water management in Ireland and the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

It consists of 25 members including representatives from a wide range of organisations and sectors with an interest in water issues that includes the environmental sector, the rural and agricultural sector, consumers including customers of Irish Water, the rural water sector, rivers trusts, angling, business sector, trade unions, the community and voluntary sector, fisheries, forestry, education, social housing and tourism.

In accordance with the Water Services Act, 2017, the Forum has advisory roles in relation to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), Irish Water (IW), the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) and the Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC). The Forum is chaired by Dr Matt Crowe.

Contact: gretta@nationalwaterforum.ie

www.thewaterforum.ie

Twitter: [@anforamuisce](https://twitter.com/anforamuisce)

