

24th July 2025

Water Forum calls for the use of water efficient fittings to reduce supply demand pressures

Despite recent heavy rainfall, Uisce Éireann has today imposed a water conservation order in Counties Cork, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford, requesting the public and businesses to conserve water. Despite the rainfall, Uisce Éireann says supplies are low and need to be conserved to ensure availability over the rest of the summer. Since May, Uisce Éireann state that they have implemented water conservation efforts such as lower pressure supplies in many areas across the country.

The Water Forum, a stakeholder forum who advises the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage on water policy has called for the development of a government-led National Strategy for Water Conservation. A Water Conservation Working Group has recently been set up by the Department to advise the Minister on a future strategy for water conservation and prioritisation of resources during periods of water stress.

The Water Forum has also called for a review of building regulations to ensure that new buildings are not only energy efficient, but also water efficient to help conserve water resources. Cost-benefit analysis research commissioned by the Water Forum shows that fitting water saving devices (e.g. efficient taps, showers and toilets) in the 300,000 new houses committed to be built over the next five years has the potential to save both money and water resources.

The researchers used a baseline water use of 110 Litres per Person per Day (LPD) to represent a new-build, 4-person family home. For the cost-benefit-analysis, the researchers used a combined cost to the state of €4.40 per m³ (1000 litres) for water and wastewater services, (which equates to €2.19 per m³ for drinking water and €2.21 per m³ for wastewater) based on Uisce Éireann data. The analysis shows that:

- low to moderate cost water saving technologies (taps, showers and toilets) would cost developers less than €180 per household,
- reducing water usage from an estimated baseline of 110 LPD to 90 LPD across the planned 303,000 new homes could save 2.2 million cubic metres of water per year,
- this would result in saving of up to €9.7 million in state costs for water and wastewater services to 2030 (Uisce Éireann),
- alongside an additional potential energy savings for households of €30 million per year (approximately €100 per household).

Fitting water saving showers, toilets and taps in new builds would relieve pressure on water and wastewater infrastructure into the future. This would be particularly important in areas that have been identified as having a deficit in the water supply-demand balance, thereby restricting future building capacity.

Civic Offices, Limerick Road
Nenagh, Co. Tipperary

e: info@nationalwaterforum.ie
w: www.thewaterforum.ie



Ireland's population has increased 30% in the past twenty years and is projected to continue to increase. It takes time to build the water and wastewater infrastructure to meet these additional needs and to catch up with this increased demand. Security of water supply is critical not only for human health but also to meet economic priorities. Therefore, a proactive approach to encourage water efficient fittings in all new builds is a straightforward first step to reduce demand and relieve pressure on supplies.

END

[Report Summary: The Value of Water – A cost-benefit-analysis of setting water use targets at building](#)

Note to the Editor

The Water Forum (An Fóram Uisce) was established in 2018 to provide a platform for stakeholder engagement on all matters relating to water management in Ireland and the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. It consists of 27 members from a wide range of organisations and sectors with an interest in water issues, including agriculture, angling, business, community and voluntary sector, domestic water consumers, education, environment, fisheries, forestry, recreation, rivers trusts, rural water, social housing, tourism, trade unions and youth.

In accordance with the Water Services Act 2017, the Forum's statutory function is to advise the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), Uisce Éireann, (UÉ), the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) and the Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC) in relation to water management and the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan and the Water Framework Directive.

The Forum is chaired by Dr Matt Crowe.

For queries please contact: Gretta@nationalwaterforum.ie
www.thewaterforum.ie

Twitter X @anforamuisce

LinkedIn @anforamuisce

