

WATER STEWARDSHIP POSITION

Purpose

Water is a vital resource for the planet and is essential to our operations and the delivery of our products and services. Water enables the services and solutions we deliver to our customers through cleaning, sanitation, heating and cooling. Our operations withdraw freshwater from surface water, groundwater, rainwater and municipal water resources, and a portion of our facilities source water from water-stressed areas. Because quality freshwater is crucial to the success of our operations, the sustainable management of water resources is fundamental to the success of our business.

Water is also essential in protecting environmental and human health in our local communities. Our recognition of this critical resource underscores our global commitment to practice responsible water stewardship. Through our stewardship we aim to identify opportunities for our company and customers to use water resources in a manner that is socially and culturally equitable, economically beneficial and environmentally sustainable.

Scope

We actively seek to improve the use and discharge of water resources within our own operations and within the watersheds in which we operate. Ecolab's unique business strategy allows us to identify innovative opportunities to further our impact through the solutions we deliver to our customers, enabling clean water, safe food and healthy environments around the world.

Position

Given our dependence on water access and our impact on water resources in areas in which we operate, we recognize our responsibility to practice good water management and support the sustainability of freshwater resources. Ecolab is committed to upholding the principles of water stewardship within our own operations in alignment with the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) Standard: upholding good water governance, achieving a sustainable water balance, maintaining good water quality status, protecting, or restoring important water-related areas and providing safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for all.

We recognize the human right to water. We are committed to aligning with United Nation's (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 to "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" and have endorsed the UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate.

In addition, we recognize the importance of the energy-water nexus. We recognize that climate change impacts both water availability and quality, and we use climate scenario analyses to identify and manage risks and opportunities stemming from these impacts across our value chain. Our robust water stewardship strategy allows companies, including ourselves, to manage risk, build resilience, and create business value. Practicing water stewardship enables Ecolab to put plans in place to be more resilient from extreme weather-related events and other climate-related challenges.

Through management of our own operations, engagement in local watersheds and working with customers and strategic suppliers, Ecolab is committed to applying the following principles across our global footprint:

- Promote stewardship of natural resources and environmental protection.
- Support society’s need for clean water through the deployment of our products, technologies and efficient processes that conserve energy, water and land in our operations and our customers’ operations.
- Understand the role of water within our operations, the watersheds in which we operate, and our customer’s operations and watersheds, and understand the short- and long-term risks and opportunities that arise from this water withdrawal and context.
- Perform regular climate risk analyses and preparedness planning around extreme weather events and future warming scenarios as it relates to water stewardship and water management in our operations, including preparing business contingency and local emergency response plans.
- Implement change within our operations to continually ensure our water withdrawal is within sustainable limits, that water is governed well and that on-site areas of importance to water resources are protected or restored.
 - Ecolab is committed to achieving a net positive water impact in our operations. By 2030, Ecolab will replenish greater than 50% of water withdrawal and achieve Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) certification at sites that operate in high-risk watersheds. Ecolab will also reduce water withdrawal by 40% per unit of production across our enterprise.
- Collaborate and engage with our customers to reduce environmental and water-related risks and impacts of daily operations and products.
 - Ecolab is committed to using our technologies and expertise to conserve 300 billion gallons of water annually by 2030 by reducing water withdrawal in our customers operations, as well as our own. Our efforts align with UN SDG target 6.4 to “substantially increase water use efficiency across all sectors.”
- Approach water stewardship at the local level, focused on shared water challenges involving availability, quality and access. This includes assessing water risks in our value chain at the local level though the implementation of the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) standard.
- Provide access to WASH facilities in 100% of our operations and monitor WASH access in the high-risk watersheds in which we operate.
- Engage directly and proactively with policymakers to bring our market segment and scientific expertise to the table on energy, water, waste, food safety and customer health issues that may be impacted by shared water challenges.
- Partner with other organizations leading the way in increased global water security.
- Participate in local collective action groups, particularly in high-risk watersheds, to drive meaningful progress at the local watershed level, ensuring alignment on local shared water challenges and water replenishment opportunities, as well as sharing best practices with stakeholders in these regions.

- Apply all relevant safety and process safety water-related strategies, plans and policies, including our internal spill response plan.
- Minimize pollutants going to stormwater and wastewater by inspecting/testing prior to offsite discharge; maintain compliance with region/local stormwater and wastewater permit requirements or where no local requirements exist maintains company standards for discharge.

Explanation of Key Terms

Energy-water nexus | The relationship between the water used to generate and transmit energy and the energy required to collect, clean, move, store and dispose of water.

Watershed | The geographic area in which water is captured, flows through and eventually discharged. Also referred to as a catchment.

WASH | An acronym for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

Responsibility

The Corporate Sustainability Department is responsible for the implementation of this position. This position and the company’s performance in implementing it is reviewed annually and updated as needed.

Compliance

Ecolab is committed to compliance with all legal, regulatory, customer and other local requirements applicable to Ecolab activities and operations as it relates to water, wastewater and stormwater.

Reporting

Ecolab is committed to continue to provide transparent public reporting of our sustainability metrics and progress against our goals and targets. We will continue our commitment to annual third-party auditing of our greenhouse gas emissions and water withdrawal inventory.

References

- [Ecolab Sustainability Position](#)
- [Ecolab Climate Change Position](#)

Version #	Date	Description	Revised By
Initial Release	2014	Initial Release	Corporate Sustainability
2	2019	Position Refresh	Corporate Sustainability
3	March 2022	Position Refresh	Corporate Sustainability