

Policy

Water management

At Ørsted, we are committed to continuously reduce our impacts related to water withdrawal, consumption, and discharge – particularly in regions where water is scarce. Access to clean water and sanitation is a basic human right.

Freshwater and seawater resources are important for the production and storage of energy at Ørsted's assets. The consumption and discharge of the used water have impacts on water availability, surrounding ecosystems, and water quality in the areas where Ørsted operates. However, Ørsted also recognises the opportunity of contributing to prevent global water shortages by applying new tools and innovative technologies, as there are indisputable links between climate change and freshwater supplies. In this way, we can reduce our impacts and accelerate the global green energy transition towards a world that runs entirely on green energy.

Executive sponsorship

This policy is applicable to all Ørsted activities, locations, employees, and parties working on behalf of Ørsted. Heads of organisational units are accountable for understanding the impacts of water management, communication of its significance, and for ensuring that appropriate measures are taken to reduce the applicable impacts.

Policy

At Ørsted, we strive to:

- raise awareness of water related environmental impacts and possible actions that can be taken to reduce them
- set environmental criteria for selection and monitoring of our suppliers
- engage with local stakeholders around water management
- set metrics and targets, establish processes, implement action plans, and continuously improve performance
- reduce water consumption by using efficient equipment or technology
- minimise water consumption by reusing water and replacing freshwater with other types of water, especially in regions where there is a risk of freshwater scarcity
- implement measures to reduce the use of harmful chemicals for water treatment
- ensure measures are in place to treat process water effluent before discharge
- preserve aquatic biodiversity near our sites
- ensure adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities at all workplaces globally.

International standards and disclosure

Our aspiration is to lead a build-out of green energy where each energy project contributes positively to a thriving nature, and we have therefore joined the Science Based Target Network's (SBTN) Corporate Engagement Program to help develop and advance tools for science-based nature targets.

We commit to operate in a way that creates progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including supporting the availability and sustainable management of water in the communities where we are present.

We commit to transparently disclose relevant water management indicators in line with global reporting standards.

Compliance

We ensure compliance with any prevailing legislation, regardless of where we operate, and we apply recognised norms and standards relevant to the scope of work and strive to exceed compliance obligations.

Related policies, standards, and processes

Ørsted's QHSE policy
Ørsted's Offshore wind biodiversity policy
Manage water process
ISO 14001:2015 Environmental management systems