

NEXT Policy Document

Water Policy – Direct Operations

Date: 7th April 2026

Scope: This policy applies to direct operations of the NEXT Group, hereby known as "NEXT". NEXT adopts an Operational Control approach for water in its joint ventures, associates and investments. Operational Control is considered to be where NEXT has the full authority to introduce and implement its operating policies.

A site will be considered under our control if the site occupied by NEXT is directly contracting with a water provider to manage its water. Where a third party contracts directly with a water provider and NEXT does not influence or engage with this third party, the water of this site is not considered under our control.

Exclusions: Upstream and Downstream activities by 3rd parties not owned by NEXT, such as consumer use or supply chain manufacturing are excluded, although they may be addressed within wider NEXT initiatives.

3rd party brands sold online are not included within the scope.

Sharing Permissions: Public

Background

NEXT acknowledges the challenges surrounding water stewardship and the shared responsibility for managing its consumption and environmental impact.

Recognising this importance, NEXT is committed to responsible water management and good water stewardship practices for our direct operations. This commitment aligns with the vision of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically supporting the goal to "ensure access to water and sanitation for all".

This Policy supports the Next Group goals to deliver improvement across the following environmental and social risks:

- Managing Climate risks
- Reducing Waste & Resource Use
- Preserving and restoring Water
- Conserving Nature & Biodiversity
- Respecting People & Empowering Communities

Objectives

NEXT has identified three key strategic objectives as the focus of our Direct Operations water policy.

Through these objectives, NEXT will aim to i) manage risk for our direct operations, ii) embed the approach across the wider business, iii) ensure compliance to regulatory requirements

- **Water Quality**
 - Maintain a safe supply of high quality water for our sites
 - Ensure continued appropriate chemical and wastewater management within our direct operations
 - Reduce negative impacts on groundwater and soil health from any direct operations
- **Water Management**
 - Conservation and efficient use of water in our direct operations
- **Water Stress**
 - Improved water resilience through flood protection or prevention and drought management for our sites

Relevant Legislation

NEXT will be legally compliant with all relevant legislation relating to water and wastewater for our direct operations which includes but is not exclusive to the below:-

- **Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 & ACoP L8**
- **The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002**

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- **The Environmental Protection Act 1990**
 - **UK Water Framework Directive (WFD)**
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Regulatory Compliance and Water Quality

NEXT holds the responsibility for maintaining the safety and quality of all water systems within its premises, which includes;-

- Ensuring adequate supply of drinking water for all employees and visitors
- Ensuring compliance with relevant legislation to control Legionella bacteria
- Conducting regular risk assessments of water systems (storage tanks, pipework, temperature controls)
- Arranging regular independent water quality testing and monitoring as part of a water hygiene management plan
- Managing on-site hazardous chemicals in accordance with relevant legislation, and training all affected employees to receive appropriate COSHH training
- Continuously reviewing and monitoring chemicals used in direct operations to identify and switch to preferred alternatives
- Minimise negative impacts on soil and groundwater by preventing the release of hazardous and polluting substances through correct wastewater treatment and continuous improvement.

Water Management

NEXT's ambition is to maximise efficient water use at all owned sites, and promote water conservation through best practice across these owned operations.

NEXT uses municipal water in direct operations within the UK and is not an intensive water user, however we will continue to identify areas to drive efficiencies.

- NEXT monitors water use from all direct operations to identify potential leaks
- NEXT undertakes measurement and monitoring of water use where appropriate via Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) technology and will continue to implement this technology across our sites where possible
- Conduct regular reviews of the operations and locations which use the highest water volumes to identify where reductions can be made
- Continually review options to optimise water use in NEXT own sites through the installation of water-saving devices (e.g low flush toilets, sensor taps, PIR urinals)
- Raise awareness with relevant stakeholders on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) principles and efficient water handling

Own Sites - Overseas

NEXT uses water within our overseas offices that operate within our sourcing arms for domestic water use.

NEXT also has an overseas presence with a number of manufacturing sites based in Sri Lanka. These sites use water within the operations for both domestic and operational use and as such are subject to the NEXT Supply Chain Requirements for water and chemical

use.

NEXT includes water usage data for all its overseas locations where the metering data is available. The policy requirements and commitments detailed above are applicable to these international offices and manufacturing sites, in accordance with the legislation of the country in which they operate.

Water Stress

NEXT is aware of the importance of water and good water stewardship within our direct operations. We use water risk assessment tools to monitor potential risks within our direct operations to assist in good management practices.

- NEXT will continue to measure and monitor water risk through industry accepted methodologies (e.g WWF Water Risk Filter) for NEXT sites
- Where identified, NEXT will raise awareness and take necessary action to mitigate identified risks at our sites
- NEXT will install rainwater harvesting to optimise water in high risk areas where possible and appropriate to do so

Indirect Activities

NEXT recognises that there are other indirect activities which also impact water stewardship from direct operation activities.

These include but are not limited to:

- Goods not for resale sourcing (e.g paper, card, packaging, timber, cotton etc)
- Indirect impacts of Artificial intelligence solutions

These indirect activities are currently excluded, but will be incorporated into the policy as necessary. NEXT may implement future water management reviews through third-party services to ensure best practice water stewardship is considered.

Governance

NEXT recognises that this is an evolving topic and therefore this policy will undergo an annual review as this topic progresses.

The NEXT Group ESG Steering Committee has overall responsibility for responding to the company's sustainability risk and mitigation opportunities, including water stewardship. NEXT Water Stewardship activities and areas of focus are also addressed via the NEXT Corporate Responsibility Report, the Task Force on Climate-related Financial disclosures (TCFD) report, and via CDP.

Find more on our wider approach to water and WASH principles in our [Modern Slavery Statement](#).

NEXT also commits to sourcing Responsible Fibres which have a reduced impact on the water consumption – read more about this in our [Corporate Responsibility report](#).

Version History

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