

# Public Policy Statement: Water

Merck is a global healthcare leader working to help the world be well. Merck's approach to Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) is guided by one simple principle – We demonstrate respect and care for the health and well-being of people and the environment in everything we do. Water is critical to the health of people, the planet and our business. We are committed to achieving sustainable water management within our operations and our supply chain, and, through our core business, partnerships, advocacy and employees, to reduce the impact of water-borne illness globally as part of our overall efforts to improve health globally.

## Water: A Business Priority

Water represents a serious global challenge. Only a small fraction, about 1 percent, of the world's water is freshwater available for use around the globe. Access to clean water is a foundation for successful and healthy employees and communities and critical for discovery and production of medicines and vaccines. As the population of the world grows, the demand for clean water will increase significantly and access to water will be more challenging. Industrial users will be required to demonstrate that water resources are used carefully.

Merck's business and manufacturing networks are expanding into regions of the world where availability of clean water and sanitation are not adequate. This presents a range of challenges including, but not limited to:

- Protecting employee and community health;
- Availability of clean water needed to manufacture and administer our products; and
- Economic impacts including increased operating costs and constrained regional growth and development

Pharmaceutical and biological research and manufacturing generate wastewater that contains nutrients, dissolved solids and other constituents that can affect water quality. Expectations for enhanced removal of these constituents from wastewater discharges will continue to grow in order to protect and improve water resources.

## Our Water Commitment

- **Merck will work to reduce our operational water footprint**
  - We will map the use of water at our facilities in order to understand our water use patterns and the quality of our discharges.
  - We will work to understand the water challenges in the communities where we operate and how our business impacts those challenges. We will implement practices that are appropriate to protect local water quality.

- We will assure that wastewater discharges from our manufacturing facilities meet all requirements and will exercise an appropriate level of care at our facilities globally even if not required by local regulation.
- We will evaluate the fate and effects of our products in the environment and will manage our discharges to be protective of the environment. We will strive to build a supply chain of manufacturing partners who embrace similar values.
- **Merck will report publicly on our water use and goals**
  - We will publicly report our manufacturing facility global use of water and our performance against key targets related to our use of water.
- **Merck will publicly advocate for good water policy**
  - We will engage with stakeholders and other interested groups to advance science-based requirements and policies that target sustainable water resources globally.
- **Merck will work to address water needs in local communities**
  - We will partner with international, national, regional and local partners to advance progress in improving water quality, access to clean water and improvements in sanitation and hygiene.
- **Merck will engage our employees to be water stewards at work, at home and in their local Communities**
  - We will educate our employees and provide them with tools to help conserve water in their jobs and at home.
  - We will provide volunteer opportunities to engage our employees in their local communities and, more broadly, to advance protection of water resources.

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