

Water management: Minimizing the impact on natural resources



Access to clean water is a human right. It is also one of the most valuable resources on Earth, and at risk to become scarce in the future. Climate change intensifies water cycles, resulting in more intense rainfalls and associated flooding in some regions as well as more intense droughts in others. This may also impact our operations and value chain.

How do we use water?

Water is extremely important for HeidelbergCement's production processes. It is used in numerous different applications, like the washing of gravel and sand, cooling of machinery and production processes like the mixing of concrete. Our specific water consumption amounted to approximately **270 litres per tonne of cement** in 2021 and we are continuously working to further reduce it.

Did you know?

Where does the water we use come from?

🌐 Nearly all potable water used in our operations is provided through public water supply systems. The majority of the water needed within the production processes comes from on-site, authorised well systems or from local rivers and lakes.

- 🌐 All direct water withdrawals are strictly regulated and closely monitored by the local public authorities. Each plant's operating permit specifies the amount of water which can be extracted and used as well as the discharge and recycling.
- 🌐 HeidelbergCement strictly adheres to environmental regulations to ensure that our raw material quarrying does not endanger local surface water or groundwater resources.

What we do



Our water-related sustainability targets...

- 🌐 By **2025**, at all production sites will have installed water reporting.
- 🌐 By **2025**, all production sites in water scarce areas will have implemented own Water Consumption Reduction Plans.
- 🌐 By **2030**, all our plants in water scarce areas will have implemented individual water management plans.

...and some actions

- 🌐 Our subsidiary Hanson Cement in the UK **reduced its water consumption by over 90%** at several sites by implementing measures like converting to closed circuits and reducing water pressure.
- 🌐 Being a good neighbour: For years, our operations in India **have collected more water from sustainable sources** such as rainfall **than they consume*** and excess water is shared with local stakeholders and neighbouring communities.

- 🌐 Reduce climate-related risks: At one of our Australian quarries, employees have developed an innovative system to **effectively manage and treat stormwater runoff**.
- 🌐 All our countries have taken action to assure that all our sites comply with the **WASH Pledge for access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene** latest by the end of 2021.

We report our key figures in the area of water annually in our Sustainability Report. We have also disclosed water data in the renowned ranking by global environmental non-profit CDP in recent years and have consistently received an 'A-' rating in the Water Security category since 2019. This confirms our position among industry leaders in responsible water use.

* In 2018, HeidelbergCement India has been certified as over six times net water positive by TÜV SÜD

