

# Policy on sustainable water management in the EVN Group

## 1 Purpose

Water is an existential basis for human, plant and animal life. The global water system and clean water supplies are subject to increasing pressure as the result of human consumption, environmental pollution and climate change. We, as a company, are also dependent on the availability of water and clearly see our responsibility to protect or restore natural water sources. We believe sustainable water management that is directed to maintaining the natural water cycle is essential to safeguard water reserves for future generations. This policy is intended to serve as a guideline for our efforts to identify, assess and manage the material impacts, risks and opportunities related to water and marine resources. It defines the principles and processes that form the basis to monitor, control and reduce our water usage. Our goal is to not only fulfil but – wherever possible – to exceed legal requirements.

This policy underscores our commitment to continuously improve our environmental practices through constant innovation. This commitment also reflects the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN), which we have supported for many years.

## 2 Scope of application

This policy is valid and applicable to all material sustainable economic activities of the EVN Group in Austria and other countries unless specific national or legal limitations take precedence.

The business areas of the EVN Group affected by this policy include the energy business with the generation of energy, the operation of distribution networks and the supply of electricity, natural gas and heat to our customers. This policy also covers the provision of drinking water suppliers to our customers as part of the environmental services business as well as wastewater disposal and thermal waste and sewage sludge utilisation. As a result of and in connection with these business areas, we are active on international markets. Moreover, our group is an internet- and telecommunication service provider with one subsidiary on the Austrian market.

We also expect our business partners, suppliers and customers to respect and support our efforts on behalf of sustainable and resource-friendly water management. We cooperate, wherever possible, to minimise the impacts of our joint activities on the natural water cycle and work to meet our environmental goals.

These principles of conduct and action lines concentrate on the focus topics identified during the annual update of the materiality analysis, e. g. water withdrawal.

## 3 Principles of conduct

The implementation of our measures in support of sustainable water management is based on the following principles of conduct:

- Efficient water usage: We attempt to use water efficiently in all areas of our business and, at the same time, minimise the impacts of our business activities on the water quality and ecosystems.
- Avoidance of water pollution: We prevent or mitigate the water pollution caused by our business activities by following the principles of conduct and action lines defined in our policy to prevent and mitigate environmental pollution. Moreover, we undertake preventive measures to reprocess our wastewater or internally or by municipal amenities.
- Continuous improvement: In all areas of our business and especially in areas with water risk, we work to minimise and, where technically possible, to further reduce our water consumption and water withdrawal.
- Compliance: We are committed to compliance with all relevant legal regulations and standards relating to water usage, withdrawal and discharge and carry out the required monitoring at regular intervals.
- Responsibility: Each employee is responsible for the careful – and, in particular, the economical and efficient – use of the resource water in connection with his or her activities. The heads of the organisational units are responsible for compliance with legal and internal regulations on environmental protection.

#### 4 Priority action lines

The preservation of the natural water cycle plays an important role in the EVN Group's strategy and is reflected in the definition of the following priority action lines:

- Regular survey of impacts, risks and opportunities: We regularly identify, quantify and assess the impacts and dependencies of our activities and locations on the environment and society. We also catalogue the material locations in our group that are located in water stress or water risk areas as a result of our water usage.
- Wastewater treatment: In addition to our efforts to minimise the volume of wastewater from our operations, we arrange for the correct treatment of our wastewater – either internally or through contracts with treatment plant operators – and for compliance with legal and contractually defined parameters.
- Water management: We integrate water management together with the definition of goals and metrics for monitoring, control and auditing throughout the EVN Group.
- Energy generation from hydropower: In connection with the planning and construction of hydropower plants, we work to minimise the interference with nature. This takes place through the inclusion of recognised nature conservation experts in the planning phase or also through the appointment of an ecological construction supervisor during the building phase. Selected water ecology measures are implemented continuously at our existing hydropower plants. In Austria, these measures are defined by the National Water Framework Directive.
- Supply security: Our focus for drinking water supplies lies on the protection of water quality and availability, the equilibrium between water supply and withdrawal, and the minimisation of pipeline losses. We rely on continuous monitoring, investments in the supply network, and other targeted measures. Our crisis and emergency supply plan defines procedures for crisis and disaster situations.
- Water treatment: With our activities in the area of municipal wastewater treatment and the subsequent return of cleaned water to the water cycle, we make a positive contribution to the preservation of the natural water cycle and the improvement of the water status.
- Responsibility: We support our employees' awareness for the importance of sustainable water management and conduct regular training for our specialists to implement our policies.

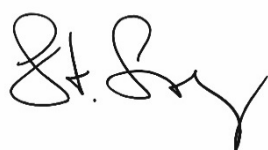
#### 5 We use the following measures to keep interested parties informed:

- Transparent reporting: We report transparently on our water management and water metrics to citizens, institutions and other interest groups and provide information on our measures and success in the area of water management.
- Open communications: We promote a culture of open communications and encourage all employees to submit suggestions for the improvement of our water management.
- Inclusive stakeholder management: We work together with our stakeholders and incorporate their needs and expectations concerning water management in line with legal requirements.

#### 6 Responsibility

The Executive Board of the EVN Group represents the highest level of the company's organisation that is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

The Executive Board of EVN AG



Stefan Szyszkowitz  
Sprecher des Vorstands



Alexandra Wittmann  
Mitglied des Vorstands



Stefan Stallinger  
Mitglied des Vorstands