



# Water Stewardship

## 1. Policy Statement

Our purpose is to enjoy life's everyday moments.

Sustainable business has been the beating heart of Britvic, since the creation of The British Vitamin Products Company back in the 19th century by chemist Mr Rawlings. As then, we believe the most pressing challenges facing and shaping society globally are centred around health, our health and the health of our planet. Healthier People, Healthier Planet is key to delivering our 2025 strategy, fundamental to Britvic's resilience and future success, as we work towards creating a better tomorrow.

As a soft drinks company, water is vital to our business, and to every single one of our brands – from bottled water and flavouring billions of water occasions to Beyond the Bottle and everything in between. We also use it to clean, cool, and preserve our products during the production process. Additionally it is critical to growing many of the ingredients, the fruit, barley and sugar that go into our brands.

Our water stewardship programme sits within the Healthier Planet pillar of our strategy, specifically understanding the environmental and social footprint of our supply chain and driving efficient use of natural resources, to ensure Britvic is a positive contributor to people and planet.

Water governance and climate change are inextricably linked. While climate change is leading to more unpredictable and extreme weather events, water management can play a key role in climate change mitigation with improved wastewater treatment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as specific water management interventions such as wetland protection, conservation, agriculture and other nature-based solutions which help to sequester carbon in biomass and soils.

Constraints on the quality and quantity of the water available limit our ability to operate effectively, meet the needs of our customer and for our consumers to enjoy our brands in life's everyday moments. Managing our impact on water, and being good water stewards, must be one of our highest environmental priorities.

This policy outlines our commitments to water stewardship including the allocation of responsibilities, best practice and continuous improvement.

## 2. Policy Owner

The Sustainable Business Director is accountable for establishing the strategy which strives for the a net positive impact of our business in the areas that we operate. However, all employees, contractors and visitors, company-wide, are expected to be proactive and cooperative in upholding our Environmental standards.

The Environmental Social and Governance Committee oversees, on behalf of the Executive Team and the Board, the development of Britvic's Sustainable Business strategy and roadmap. They also recommend medium and long-term targets and develop key policies to drive continual improvement. They also make recommendations to the Executive Team and business units on how to implement these and monitor their performance, largely through their supply chain operations

## 3. Who does it apply to?

We believe that safeguarding the planet is everybody's responsibility and all employees are accountable for delivering our water stewardship goals. As a sign of our commitment, non-financial targets form part of the annual bonus structure for Band E managers and above, more generally too, we recommend all employees include Healthier People, Healthier Planet objectives in their myPerformance objectives. This policy therefore applies to all Britvic employees, contractors and facilities worldwide.

## 4. Policy Detail - What do I need to know or do?

### **Our Water Stewardship Values**

- Safeguarding the planet is everyone's responsibility and we view everything we do through a people, planet and performance lens.
- Understanding the environmental and social footprint of our supply chain and driving the efficient use of natural resources including water to ensure Britvic is a positive contributor to people and planet.
- Sustainability is so important that it applies to every activity we undertake within Britvic. We each have a role to play to make this happen and hold each other to account, if we see activity that we believe is unsustainable.

### **Our Water Stewardship Standards**

Water stewardship standards are in place and apply to all our locations globally, to establish sustainable working practices and behaviours. These standards are available in the integrity management system documentation and cover such things as operating procedures, environmental controls, emergency plans and reporting.

## Our Water Stewardship Commitments

Our environmental commitments reflect our approach to managing the environmental issues most material to our business.



We acknowledge that access to water and sanitation is a human right. As such our Healthier Planet strategy is aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and our water stewardship policy aligns with SDGs 6, 12, 14, and 15 (specifically the sections 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 12.2, 12.5, 12.6, 14.1, 15.1)

[Goal 6 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\)](#)

[Goal 12 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\)](#)

[Goal 14 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\)](#)

[Goal 15 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\)](#)

### Direct Operations

- We commit to a 20% reduction in our water usage ratio across Britvic plc in 2025 by
  - Improving our operating efficiency to minimise the impact of our operations on natural water systems
  - Investing in water and effluent saving opportunities in our facilities, while embracing new technologies, collaborating with our suppliers and communities and other stakeholders to address the global water challenge
- On a monthly basis we measure and report our water usage, effluent and quality in our direct operations to the Britvic Executive Committee as we work to improve water efficiency.
- We operate an integrated management system, of which environment is a core element. Requirements include water risk assessments and the certification of all plc manufacturing sites to ISO 14001 Standard by 2025.
- All our manufacturing sites operate under specific environmental permits issued by the relevant environment agencies. We work within the effluent limits set by these agency permits
- All capital expenditure approvals over £1m will include water/biodiversity impact analysis and mitigation plans

- Our plc manufacturing and office locations meet local statutory water, sanitation and hygiene requirements. This includes the provision of drinking water to a potable standard. Where treatment methods are viable and proven to maintain our compliance with local water quality requirements, the use of grey water harvesting solutions will be explored

### Indirect operations

Managing our own water use and minimising our impact on water quality will not be sufficient to insulate our business from water risks. As a result we are actively seeking opportunities to reduce water risks in the basins where we operate. We have mapped and monitor the water risks in the catchment areas of our operations using the WWF water risk tool.

Producing the raw materials for our products uses water and can affect water quality. We partner with suppliers in building their own sustainability capabilities and hold them to high standards, this includes risk assessing our priority suppliers facilities using the WWF water risk tool. We aim to work only with suppliers whose values are consistent with our own and who are committed to developing inclusive, resilient and transparent businesses.

Throughout the life of our relationship with each supplier, we seek to ensure that their conduct matches the expectations outlined in our ethical trading policy. This also applies to our partnerships with other companies who produce and package our products, where we don't have an owned manufacturing footprint in a market.

100% of ingredients from priority partners will be sustainably sourced, including having sound water stewardship and regenerative agriculture programs to improve water quality, water resilience and biodiversity. For example, our programme in Brazil to reduce the use of pesticides, and committing to the sustainable juice covenant via the SAI platform.

### Advocacy

- Britvic advocates improvement in water stewardship, through supporting the sustainable development goals, participating in the CDP Water Programme and collaborating through (among others) the UK Food and Drink Federation (FDF), the British Soft Drinks Association (BSDA) Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP), Water Unite, Origin Green, and the Alliance of Water Stewardship (AWS). Britvic also partners with The Rivers Trust and others to advocate for sustainable water catchment management
- We actively support public policy and encourage capacity building as a means to improve water governance and management of watersheds by regulators, particularly in water stressed countries

- We aim to share our experience with a wide range of stakeholders, particularly our suppliers as we work towards the adoption of global corporate water stewardship standards. This includes the mobilisation of positive action at a local level to address the water stress through targeted campaigns
- Through employee, customer, supplier and community engagement we will promote positive action, supporting the catchment based approach. Each business unit will sign up to catchment based water/biodiversity scheme, driving employee engagement, reinforcing the mental health benefits for our people and our communities
- We will use the unique scale and reach of our brands to help consumers make better choices, with stronger, simpler messages, labelling, social media campaigning
- We are committed to safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in local water stressed communities where we operate

#### Governance, transparency and communication

- We will work with our suppliers, customers & strategic partners as we navigate the water stewardship landscape
- We are committed to transparent and accurate reporting and will continue to publish appropriate water data, our water stewardship strategy and our progress to all stakeholders via our annual report
- We will be advocates for better consumer choices sharing our knowledge about water stewardship to encourage improved water usage
- We engage our employees to further the importance of water to our business, the understanding of water stewardship and the water action across the business
- As an early adopter of the Taskforce for Climate-related Financial disclosure (TCFD), we have undertaken scenario analysis to assess the risks associated with climate change to our direct operations and our supply chain. We are working to understand the impact of our brands on the environment through the use of an impact assessment tool

In addition to our specific water focus areas, it is our policy to:

- Comply fully with all applicable environmental laws and regulations
- Set targets that will positively drive broader environmental performance and exceed current standards
- Implement effective management systems (certified to national and/or international standards where appropriate) to prevent pollution and continually improve environmental performance

- Audit and regularly review the environmental risks, impacts and performance of our business
- Consider the environmental impacts of business changes, including the design of new and renovated products
- Maintain a constructive dialogue with stakeholders on environmental matters and seek out partnerships to improve our programme.
- Commit to operating within an ethical framework, as detailed in our Ethical Business Policy

## 5. Policy breach and consequences - What happens if I don't follow it?

If you don't follow or fully comply with the policy, you could endanger reputation of the organisation and potentially cause harm to our people, environment and communities in which we operate.

Any significant breach of this policy will be reviewed and depending on the nature of the breach, may get escalated. Deliberate or negligent contravention of this policy will be investigated as a disciplinary matter and will be considered as non-compliance as part of your myPerformance review.

If you are a contractor, we will review your assignment with us which may lead to permanent or temporary exclusion of individuals or whole companies from working with Britvic.

## 6. Related Documents

Code of Business Conduct

Ethical Business Policy

Healthier People, Healthier Planet Strategy

Integrity Management System Standards

Packaging Strategy

## 7. Terms and Definitions

*Healthier People, Healthier Planet – Sustainable Business Strategy of which the Healthier Planet is the environment section of the strategy.*