

Adapting to a changing climate

Our customers and regulators expect us to act in the face of climate change. That means being a responsible steward of our local environment, reducing our own carbon emissions, and making sure we're prepared to operate within the context of a changing climate.

The impact of these commitments is outlined in our Environment Policy. In 2021, we published our latest Climate Change Adaptation Report. This risk assessment identified six headline risks posed by climate change.

The six headline risks we have identified:

1

Increase in demand due to higher temperatures throughout the year, exacerbated during summer peak-demand periods.

2

Equipment and asset failure due to extreme weather.

3

Increase in competition for, and price of, raw-water imports.

4

Reduced availability of ground and surface water due to drought.

5

Outage due to flooding of sites.

6

Deterioration in raw-water quality due to changes in rainfall and temperature, leading to loss of sources.

The report also considers how the risks from climate change might affect us in the case of two potential future global warming scenarios: where the world warms by 2°C, and a more extreme scenario where the world warms by 4°C. Finally, it details what we want Affinity Water to have achieved by 2025, and our aspiration for 2050. The report highlights the planned interventions during AMP7 that will help us reduce the risks.

This year, we completed several updates to the 2021 Climate Change Adaptation Report, publishing two additional reports. The first focuses on identifying the other climate risks not covered by the six headline risks. The second report identifies the climate risks we think could affect the third parties (such as power and telecoms providers) who enable us to provide our service. To make it easier to find information on our climate risk, we have also developed a non-technical summary of the 2021 Climate Adaptation Report.

Quick links



To find out more about how we are adapting to the climate change challenge, please visit: affinitywater.co.uk/climate-change

We continue to monitor our exposure to risks from climate change and will incorporate the latest climate change scenarios into our business plan 2025–2030.