

OUR COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE WATER MANAGEMENT

The protection of all natural resources is an integral part of Air Liquide's commitment to sustainable development. Water is essential for life on earth and is also a highly important resource for many industry sectors of the global economy. As water scarcity grows with risks to access to clean water, Air Liquide aims to improve its water management throughout the world.

Air Liquide acknowledges the human right to water and sanitation and recognition of environmental linkages, for example, due to climate change and the impact of human activities on biodiversity. The actions undertaken by the Group contribute to the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6 "Clean water and sanitation" and 12 "Responsible consumption and production". These goals call for universal and equitable access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation by 2030 for all, especially for vulnerable populations. It also calls for sustainable management of this resource, and mentions the reduction of the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

The impact of industries on water is all the more important since climate change threatens actual weather patterns.

WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY

Water stewardship and management of the risks associated with water withdrawal and use as well as the quality of the water returned to ecosystems are governed by a Group water management policy, part of the Air Liquide BlueBook¹. This policy:

(1) Describes the business dependency and impacts on water: Reliable and efficient operations by the Group are crucially dependent upon availability of water of an adequate quality. In parallel, water withdrawal, consumption and discharge by operations induces impacts on local communities and ecosystems. Water risk management is understood as a dual approach aiming at managing risks on the Group's operations, as well as the risks Group's operations may pose to external stakeholders.

(2) Outlines the key principles of Water Management Policy to be applied in the Group: Key Principles of Group's water management Policy are introduced to ensure simultaneously safe, reliable, efficient and cost-competitive operations and adequate accounting of the potential impacts on communities and ecosystems.

(3) Defines the internal reporting and monitoring framework: Proper risk management relies on monitoring and reporting adequate indicators in order to establish baseline, track operational and environmental performance. Said indicators are introduced and reference is made to the detailed technical standards to be applied across the Group's operations.

(4) Defines Group Objectives related to Water Management: Two Group objectives have been outlined - (1) For operations in water stress areas, to have a documented water management plan that addresses water withdrawal / usage risk; (2) For all operations, to have processes and procedures in place to ensure that the quality of water discharged meets or exceeds the applicable local standards.

(5) Illustrates the elements of stakeholder engagement on water topics: The Group is not operating in isolation: as a result, on critical topics such as water management dialogue must be structured with other relevant stakeholders.

(6) Provides details on required actions to deploy the key principles: In order to continuously improve its operational and environmental performance, the Group has to take a series of actions both at Group and Subsidiaries levels, from risk assessment to leveraging technology for the benefit of its operations and of the environment.

¹ The BlueBook is Air Liquide's Global Reference Manual, which gathers the Group's codes, policies and procedures and forms the basis for the Group's internal control system. It is accessible to all employees.