

Position on Water and Waste Management

Background

Environmental stewardship is an important part of the overall responsibility of manufacturers to advance sustainable development and preserve planetary integrity for current and future generations. Proactive water and waste management are fundamental elements of a corporate sustainability strategy. Equally, economies realized through resource efficiency support business resilience and continuity.

Relevance

As a global manufacturer, we recognize our role in helping to conserve and protect natural resources. As a leader in the healthcare industry, we know that human health is inextricably linked to the health of the planet—we can't have healthy people and communities without a healthy environment. To this end, we are committed to marshaling our expertise, resources and partnerships to reduce the environmental footprint of our operations, our products and our extended supply chain while advancing better health for all.

Guiding Principles

As stated in [Our Credo](#): “We are responsible to the communities in which we live and work and to the world community as well. We must maintain in good order the property we are privileged to use, protecting the environment and natural resources.”

Our Position

Access to clean water and sanitation is essential for human health and wellbeing. High levels of waste place unnecessary burden on planetary resources, contribute to climate change through methane generation, represent risks for biodiversity and human health, and can facilitate the spread of disease. As part of our commitment to better health for all, we strive to conserve water resources, and meet the water demand for our operations without limiting the availability or quality of water resources to others. We also invest in avoiding, reducing, reusing and recycling waste across our operations globally.

We aim to adhere to all applicable regulatory requirements relating to water withdrawal, consumption, wastewater and waste management at all our sites. We also require our sites to comply with our Johnson & Johnson Environmental Health and Safety Standard governing water and waste management, applying the more stringent standard in cases where there is a difference.

Water Management

We work to minimize our impacts on the planet through responsible use of water. Johnson & Johnson also recognizes the human right to water, which, as defined by the United Nations, entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use. See our [Position on Human Right to Water](#).

Our water stewardship strategy and practices include:

Monitoring our water withdrawal: Johnson & Johnson monitors all water withdrawals as part of our approach to water efficiency and water risk management. A standard requirement of all Johnson & Johnson facilities is to determine, at least annually, the acceptability of drinking water supply by applying local, regional, or national drinking water-quality standards. Where there are no such standards, the World Health Organization guidelines are applied. Water that is used in process operations is subject to quality verification as determined by our quality assurance requirements.

Assessing water risk and water stress: We prioritize our water efforts at locations with high water risk based on water risk assessments. We aim to reduce water withdrawal from locations with water stress (using the CDP Water Program definition) over time. We do this through water withdrawal efficiencies and implementation of water resource protection plans at high-risk sites.

Reducing water demand and increasing water reuse: We work to improve water efficiency across our operations by reducing water demand, increasing water reuse and prioritizing water management actions using a risk-based approach that accounts for location-specific water risks at our sites worldwide. Such measures include manufacturing and engineering improvements, for example:

- Upgrading water chillers and HVAC installations to the most water-efficient options;
- Applying alternative technologies for cooling towers to reduce water dependence;
- Applying leak detection technologies to support elimination of leaks;
- Designing manufacturing product cycles for water reuse; and
- Investing in modern facilities to achieve high-quality wastewater treatment.

Careful management of wastewater: We apply strict wastewater controls in terms of quantity and quality of wastewater at all our facilities both to meet regulatory requirements and to voluntarily minimize our impacts on the environment. All our facilities have wastewater treatment installations or use approved third-party operations for treatment. Further, we control wastewater quality in line with our commitment to minimize the impact of pharmaceutical and personal care products in water waste streams. See our [Position on Impact of Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in the Environment](#).

Disclosing our water impacts and risk to CDP: Johnson & Johnson has been a participant in the CDP Water Program since its inception in 2010, and our disclosure continues to receive an annual positive rating by CDP. See our [Health for Humanity Report](#) for annual CDP scores.

Waste Management

We continue to advance initiatives across all our facilities and throughout our supply chain to systematically avoid waste, reduce waste to landfill and increase sustainable management of waste. The waste streams generated directly by our operations include hazardous and non-hazardous waste from research laboratories, manufacturing processes, warehouses and offices.

Waste management and reduction management across Johnson & Johnson include the following:

Defined hierarchy of waste management: Every Johnson & Johnson site must comply with local regulations regarding waste and, in addition, develop its own waste management program, applying the following hierarchy of waste management practices:

1. Source Reduction
2. Reuse
3. Recycle/Compost
4. Energy Recovery
5. Treatment and Disposal

Positive action to reduce waste and increase recyclability: Our operations around the world adopt a wide range of practices to avoid, reduce, reuse or recycle waste wherever possible. Such practices include, for example:

- Applying lean manufacturing principles at our facilities to reduce waste generation at the source;
- Identifying specific waste streams for different materials and segregating waste at all our facilities;
- Engaging teams at manufacturing sites to collaborate for waste reduction in the manufacturing process, and partnering with external organizations to identify and progress environmentally positive reuse or disposal options;
- Adopting innovative technology for waste streams to recover materials that can be reused; and
- Working with suppliers to assure optimum packaging profiles for raw materials, and intermediate and finished products to reduce potential packaging waste compatible with required product protection.

Minimizing packaging waste through our value chain: Packaging plays a critical role in maintaining the quality and safety of our products throughout our value chain. We evaluate and define our packaging needs with an intent to minimize packaging volumes while increasing recycled content of packaging and recyclability. See our [Position on Sustainable Products and Packaging](#).

Additional Water Stewardship and Waste Management Practices

Applying water and waste considerations in product development: Water and waste aspects of product sustainability are incorporated in our sustainability-driven approach to product design, [EARTHWARDS](#), which, since 2009, is our framework for identifying, quantifying and progressing improvement opportunities across key sustainability impact areas, including our water and waste footprints. Our objective is to continue to increase the proportion of new and existing products that achieve EARTHWARDS recognition for sustainability innovation improvements, which cover both water and waste impacts.

Driving responsible practices through our supply chain: We urge our suppliers across the world to take a responsible position on water stewardship and waste management, and to observe best practices where possible. See our [Responsibility Standards for Suppliers](#).

Reporting water and waste impacts: We publicly disclose a wide range of water and waste performance metrics annually in our [Health for Humanity Report](#), as well as providing updates on progress against specific commitments we have undertaken in the area of water and wastewater management.

Application

This position is relevant for the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies, as detailed in our [governance materials](#).

Last Updated: June 2020