Love Wales’ Water

We drink it, flush it, play in it, swim in it, fish in it and plants and wildlife live in it.

Natural Resources Wales is responsible for implementing the Water Framework Directive in Wales.

The 3 key principles of the Water Framework Directive are:

- Protect: prevent deterioration
- Restore: aim to achieve ‘good or better’ status
- Promote: value of the water environment

Currently at good or better status: 904 (40%)
At moderate status: 427 (17%)
At bad status: 200 (9%)
At poor status: 9 (0.4%)

Progress

- 3147km rivers meet good or better status
- 38 groundwater bodies in Wales all at good quantitative condition
- 1.244km² of estuarine and coastal waters in good or better status
- 3.7 km² of lakes are in good or better status

Over three years, partnership projects delivered £4.4million worth of improvements that contributed to:

- 600 farm assessments
- 533 fish easements
- 13 fish passes
- 554.7km improved access for fish
- 71km of fencing
- 850 soft bank revetment
- 74 habitat restoration schemes
- 5 children learnt about river habitats

All our activities place pressure on our water environment.

The top 5 issues are:

- Physical modifications e.g. weirs, culverts
- Historical mining activities e.g. metals
- Point source pollution e.g. phosphate from waste water treatment works
- Rural pollution e.g. sediment and nutrients from agriculture
- Pollution from towns, cities and transport e.g. chemicals from urban and transport environments

How we are tackling these issues

We are aiming for a minimum increase to achieve 42% of water bodies to meet good status by 2021. We will work with the Wales Water Management Forum, partners and organisations to develop a delivery plan. These groups are absolutely key to the success of the delivery of improvements as we cannot do it alone.

To find out more go to: https://naturalresources.wales/water/quality/?lang=en

A list of national and local measures can be found on waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/