

OUR OUTSTANDING CLIMATE SMART ACTION

Showcase: energy neutral by 2030

De Water Groep is an integrated water utility in Flanders, Belgium:

- 130 mio m³ drinking water for 3.3 million customers
- 7.5 mio m³ tailor-made industrial water to 41 industrial customers



De Watergroep wants to become **Energy Neutral by 2030**.
→ This means: *generating at least as much renewable energy on our own sites as we consume in the company.*

- Concretely, we want to:
- ✓ Invest in **roof and ground-mounted PV** where possible at our more than 300 sites in Flanders;
 - ✓ Install **5-10 wind turbines** through third-party investment on our own sites;
 - ✓ Explore and implement the opportunities for PV on grounds and water bodies

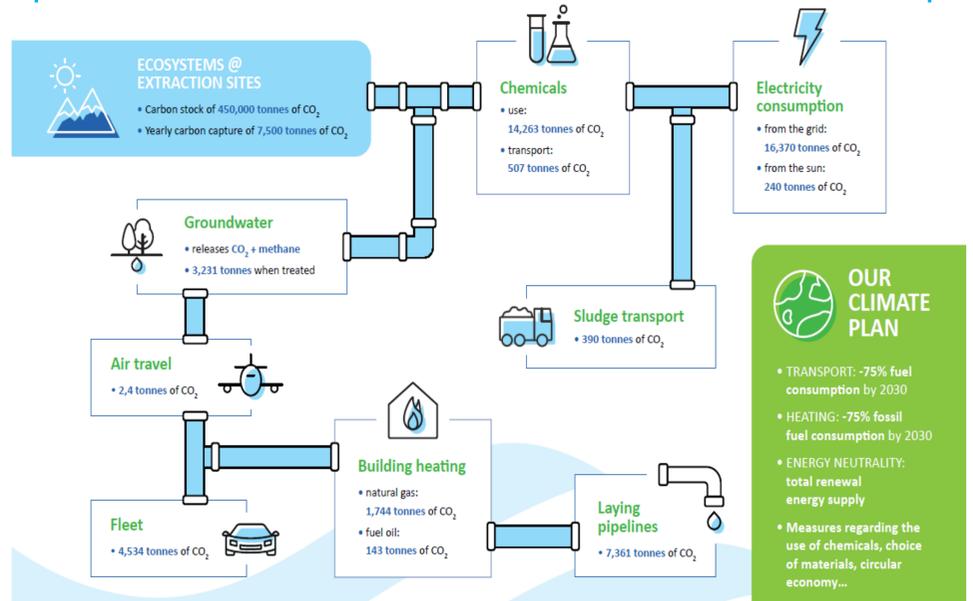


Picture 1 - PV at our production site and water reservoir Kluzien

OUR MITIGATION ACTION

GHG emissions are reduced

De Watergroep wants to become **Energy Neutral by 2030** and **climate neutral by 2050**.



OUR CLIMATE PLAN

- TRANSPORT: -75% fuel consumption by 2030
- HEATING: -75% fossil fuel consumption by 2030
- ENERGY NEUTRALITY: total renewable energy supply
- Measures regarding the use of chemicals, choice of materials, circular economy...

Picture 2- GHG Emissions of De Watergroep and plan to reduce them (2021)

- De Watergroep tries to **maximize its resource recovery**:
- Sludge of drinking water production processes are recovered and reused in the circular economy (ex. Lime granules reused for composite materials)
 - Recycling of old water meters

OUR ADAPTATION ACTION

Essential services are delivered while reducing the risk of failure in the face of climate change threats

Flanders is the European **region most at risk** for water scarcity and droughts. Diversifying the water portfolio and lowering water use is key.

- ✓ **Reducing water losses** is a strategic objective. We want to reduce the infrastructure leakage index (ILI) to 0.45 by 2025 from 1.5 in 2021.



Picture 3 – Action tracks for the strategic Program Leakie for reducing water losses

- ✓ **Installing 1.5 million digital water meters** to encourage water reduction by data
- ✓ Actively **researching alternative sources** for drinking **water production**:
 - ✓ Developing climate-resilient long-term plans for water supply
 - ✓ Experimenting with alternative sources for water:
 - ✓ Desalination of brackish water,
 - ✓ Purified wastewater (direct and indirect re-use),
 - ✓ Rainwater,
 - ✓ Aquifer Storage Recovery
- ✓ policy initiatives and investment projects in the "Blue Deal".



OUR LEADERSHIP ACTION

The utility is a local, national, and international leader

De Watergroep has a strong learning culture and **focuses on innovation**:

- an R&D department of > 14 full-time FTE
- R&D portfolio of 70 projects on o.a. climate topics
- Sharing knowledge with the whole company through newsletters, **podcasts, vlog "De Watermakers"**
- Strong focus on providing training and learning for all employees.
- Participation in the European Young Water Professional Program



De Watergroep shows **international leadership**:

- CEO Hans Goossens is president of Water Europe, the voice of water-related innovation in Europe
- shareholder in KWR (research institution) and partnerships with other R&D institutions.
- 6 abstracts at this year's IWA WWCC Copenhagen
- 8 EU-funded projects regarding smart water and climate policies such as B-WaterSmart, Retouch, Superlocal, ...

Picture 4 - Company vlog 'De Watermakers' shows how technicians do their job or how new technology works

