

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2023



AQUALEX

AQUALEX

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ONE SMALL STEP CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT

At AQUALEX, we are convinced that, by 2030, everyone will be drinking tap water. Therefore, our mission is to make the experience of drinking tap water as enjoyable as possible. We provide premium, great-tasting water in a variety of temperatures and textures, all served from drinking water systems that are guaranteed to impress with their sustainable use of materials and outstanding design.

We truly appreciate you taking the time to not only read through this sustainability report, but also consider a partnership with AQUALEX. You will discover how opting for tap water can reduce pressure on our environment. By choosing our sustainable solutions, you can make that extra difference. You will see how your choice has a positive impact on the environment, your employees and your organisation. In short, one small step can make a big impact.



HOW AQUALEX MAKES YOUR ORGANISATION MORE SUSTAINABLE

-3,5 kg

3.5 kg of plastic
waste per employee
saved every year

-7x

Waste 7 times
less water

-30 kg

Cut 30 kg of CO₂
per employee
every year

Since 2023, the European Union is requiring all large companies to disclose the environmental impact of their activities through an annual sustainability report. In our ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) report, you will see that, with AQUALEX systems and taps, you can give your own sustainability figures a real boost.

You can achieve this by combining your mission with our vision: providing premium filtered tap water via systems made from sustainable materials with outstanding design. Everywhere. For everyone.

-180 kWh

Save 180 kWh of
energy per employee
every year

+15%

Boost your
employees'
productivity by 15%

01. CUT CO2

CUT 30 KG OF CO₂ PER EMPLOYEE EVERY YEAR

We drink about half a litre of water at work on a normal working day. Opting for bottled water or water from a plastic bottle has a big impact on your employees' carbon footprint, as well as that of your organisation as a whole. Over a 220-day working year, drinking tap water means cutting CO₂ emissions by just under 30 kg per person.

According to a study by Ghent University (Thomassen et al., 2021), 0.17 g of CO₂ is produced in Flanders for every 1 litre of tap water. The main source of CO₂ emissions from tap water is the energy consumed to distribute the water throughout the water network (31%).

The study showed that a litre of bottled water produces 259 g of CO₂, a staggering 1,500 times more than tap water. This is mainly due to how the bottles are transported, from bottling plant to shop, from shop to your business or home (70%). What's more, the production of PET bottles accounts for 27% of emissions.



1 LITRE



1,500 TIMES LESS CO₂ THAN BOTTLED WATER



1 LITRE



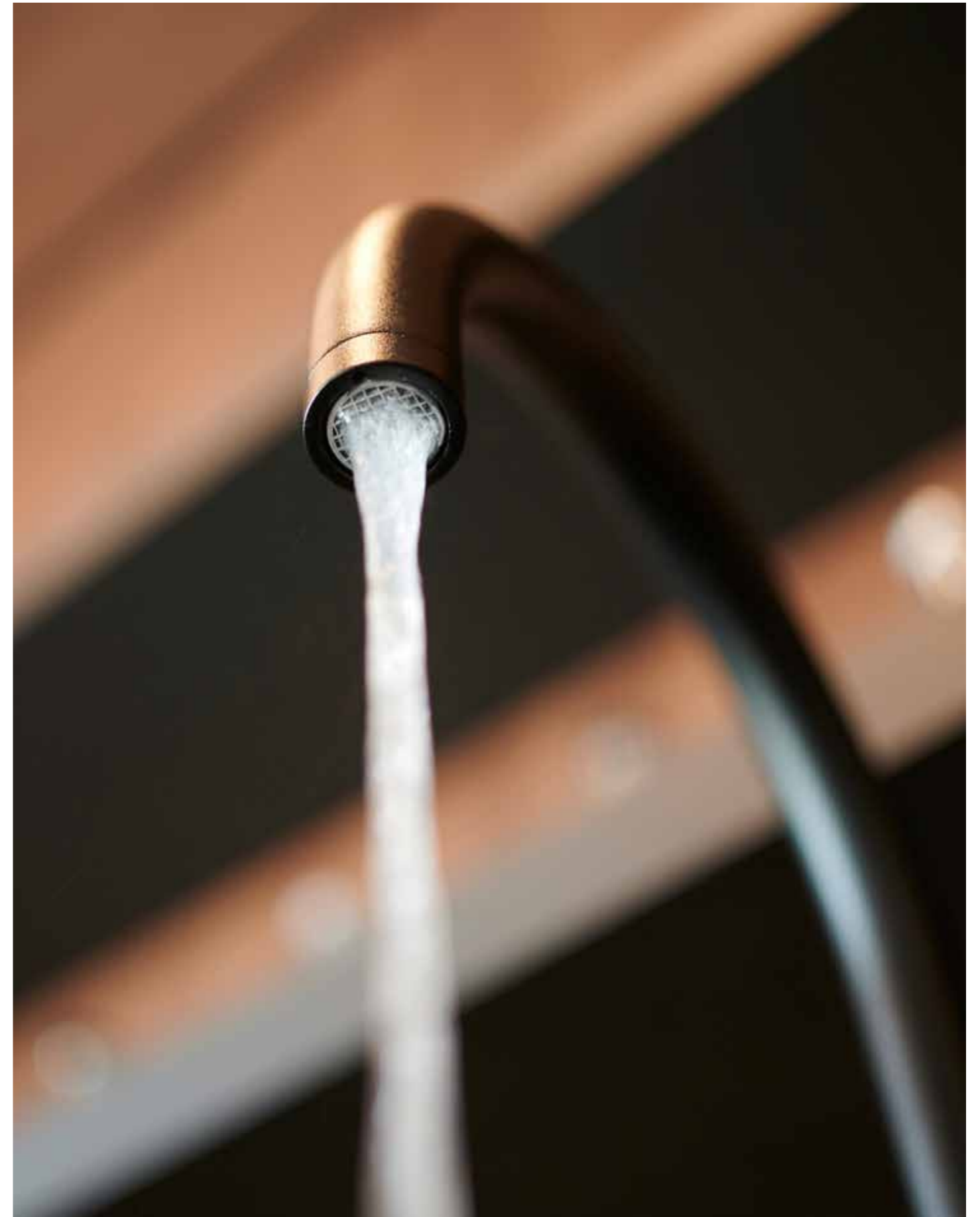
In this case, the bottled water comes from a bottling plant located 500 km away from the shop. The bottle travelled 250 km from the bottle factory to the bottling plant. You travelled 16 km between the shop and your home/business.

Bottle production is not as harmful as most people think. The real source of pollution comes from how the bottled water is ultimately transported, requiring many vehicles and trucks. With tap water, this is not an issue.

Each workday, the average Fleming drinks about half a litre of water at work. By switching to tap water, you could reduce CO₂ emissions by 30 kg over the course of one year. That is the equivalent of one car journey from Ghent to Paris! If everyone in Flanders drank tap water for a day, it would cut the same amount of greenhouse gas emissions that would be produced driving around the world 141 times.¹

According to the FIEB-VIWF, 1.2 billion litres of bottled water was consumed in Belgium in 2021 (FIEB-VIWF, 2022). That is 118 litres of bottled water per person, at home and in the workplace, amounting to 338,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions from bottled water in Belgium.²

It goes without saying that CO₂ emissions from bottled water can be reduced by making the transport from point of sale to consumer more efficient, or by utilising a lower CO₂ emitting mode of transport. If you were to walk home from the shops with your newly purchased bottle of water, the emissions for one litre of bottled water would be reduced to 141 g. But even that is still 830 times higher than tap water. And why get bottled water from the shop, when tap water is available from every tap?



1. Source: Thomassen, G., Huysveld, S., Boone, L., Vilain, C., Geysen, D., Huysman, K., Cools, B., & Dewulf, J. (2021). The environmental impact of household's water use: A case study in Flanders assessing various water sources, production methods and consumption patterns. *Science of The Total Environment*, 770, 145398. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.145398>

2. Source: FIEB - VIWF. (2022, 25 May). Figures & trends - FIEB - VIWF. <https://www.fieb-viwf.be/nl/cijfers-trends-2/>



Agathe Carré

DREES & SOMMER

As an international consulting, planning and project management company, Drees & Sommer supports property owners and investors in all things infrastructure and real estate. With more than 4,500 employees in 51 locations, the company places great emphasis on innovation, outside-the-box thinking and sustainability.

‘We opted for an ecological and sustainable alternative to bottled water.’



167 KG
PACKAGING WASTE
PER BELGIAN EVERY YEAR



19%

**32 KG PLASTIC WASTE
PER BELGIAN EVERY YEAR**
OF WHICH 40% IS SINGLE-USE!

02. PREVENT WASTE

SAVE 3.5 KG OF PLASTIC WASTE PER EMPLOYEE EVERY YEAR

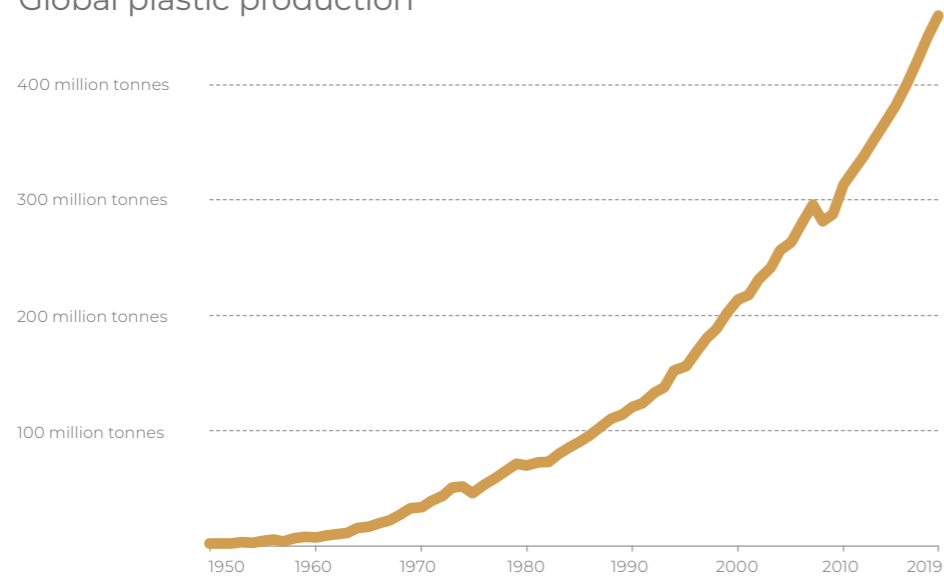
Global plastic production is rising at an exponential rate, with more being produced since the year 2000 than in the preceding 50-year period. By 2020, we had already reached a production level of 367 million tonnes of plastic in one year! Of this, roughly 40% is used for single-use applications such as packaging, disposable cutlery, drinks containers and other products. Think of water bottles that are only used once before being thrown away. This means that around 143 million tonnes of single-use plastics are produced every year. ¹

Thanks to AQUALEX, you can at least make one form of single-use plastic a thing of the past – the plastic bottle. Each second, 20,000 plastic bottles are used worldwide. Every minute, one million bottles end up in landfills. For the majority of plastic water bottles, it takes over 450 years for them to fully degrade. Imagine – the plastic water bottle you use today will still be here after your great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandchildren are born. By 2050, plastic will account for a larger total volume than all the fish in the ocean.

○
Every minute, one million plastic bottles end up in landfills.

1. Source: How many plastic water bottles are used a minute? (2020, 13 October). basq by LARQ. <https://basq.livelarq.com/sustainability/how-many-plastic-water-bottles-are-used-a-minute/>

Global plastic production



Source: Our World in Data based on Geyer et al. (2017) and the OECD Global Plastics Outlook

The average Belgian throws away 167.28 kg of packaging each year, of which over 32 kg is made from plastic. Once again, the pile of waste only continues to grow higher. Fost Plus estimates the recycling rate of plastic bottles and containers in our country to be at 82.9%. However, Recycling Network suspect that this figure represents an overestimation. According to them, depending on how this is calculated, only 61.2% to 67.2% of plastic bottles in our country are actually recycled.¹

While that percentage is higher than the global average, it also means that more than one third of all plastic waste is discarded, burned or disposed of in landfills. Recycling of single-use plastics such as plastic water bottles tends to be lower than other types of plastic. Incidentally, according to the same Recycling Network study, between 1,828 and 3,351 tonnes of plastic bottles are not recycled, but instead end up in the environment or in street litter bins.

It is important to note that recycling is just one

o

Every company, big or small, can do its bit for the environment by eliminating the use of plastic water bottles.



way of managing plastic waste. To do their bit for the environment, every company, big or small, can simply stop using plastic water bottles.

A significant proportion of discarded plastic waste ends up in the environment. According to the latest figures, between 5 and 13 million tonnes of plastic enters the great oceans worldwide every year. The growing mountain of waste can therefore be seen not only on land, but also in our oceans – the so-called plastic soup. The size of these pieces of plastic ranges from macro plastics (> 200 mm) to tiny microplastics (0.33 - 1.00 mm) that are invisible to the naked eye.² Every one of us ingest such microplastics every day via the food chain. This could be having significant implications for human health, ingesting these microplastics and nanoplastics via the food chain, drinking water, the air and our skin.

The Plastic Soup Foundation has published an overview of all the effects on organs and the immune system known to science to date in 2022. In 2021 and 2022, over 400 publications were published on these health effects.³ Besides all the plastic waste coming from land, fishing is also a major source of plastic pollution.⁴ That is why AQUALEX decided to launch a product made out of recycled fishing nets: the AQUALEX Circulo. Find out more on page 44.

1. Source: Eurostat. (2023, February). Packaging waste by waste management operations. Accessed 8 March 2023, via <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/bookmark/a057fbc1-tec0-4d5a-ad6b-1327ff4562cc?lang=en>

2. Source: Matthews, C. J., Moran, F., & Jaiswal, A. K. (2021). A review on European Union's strategy for plastics in a circular economy and its impact on food safety. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 283, 125263. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.125263>

3. Source: Heinrich Böll Stiftung & Break Free From Plastic. (2019, December). *Plastic Atlas 2019: Facts and figures about the world of synthetic polymers*. Plastic Atlas.

4. Source: Facts & Figures - Plastic Soup Foundation. (2022, 7 December). Plastic Soup Foundation. <https://www.plasticsoupfoundation.org/en/plastic-facts-and-figures/>

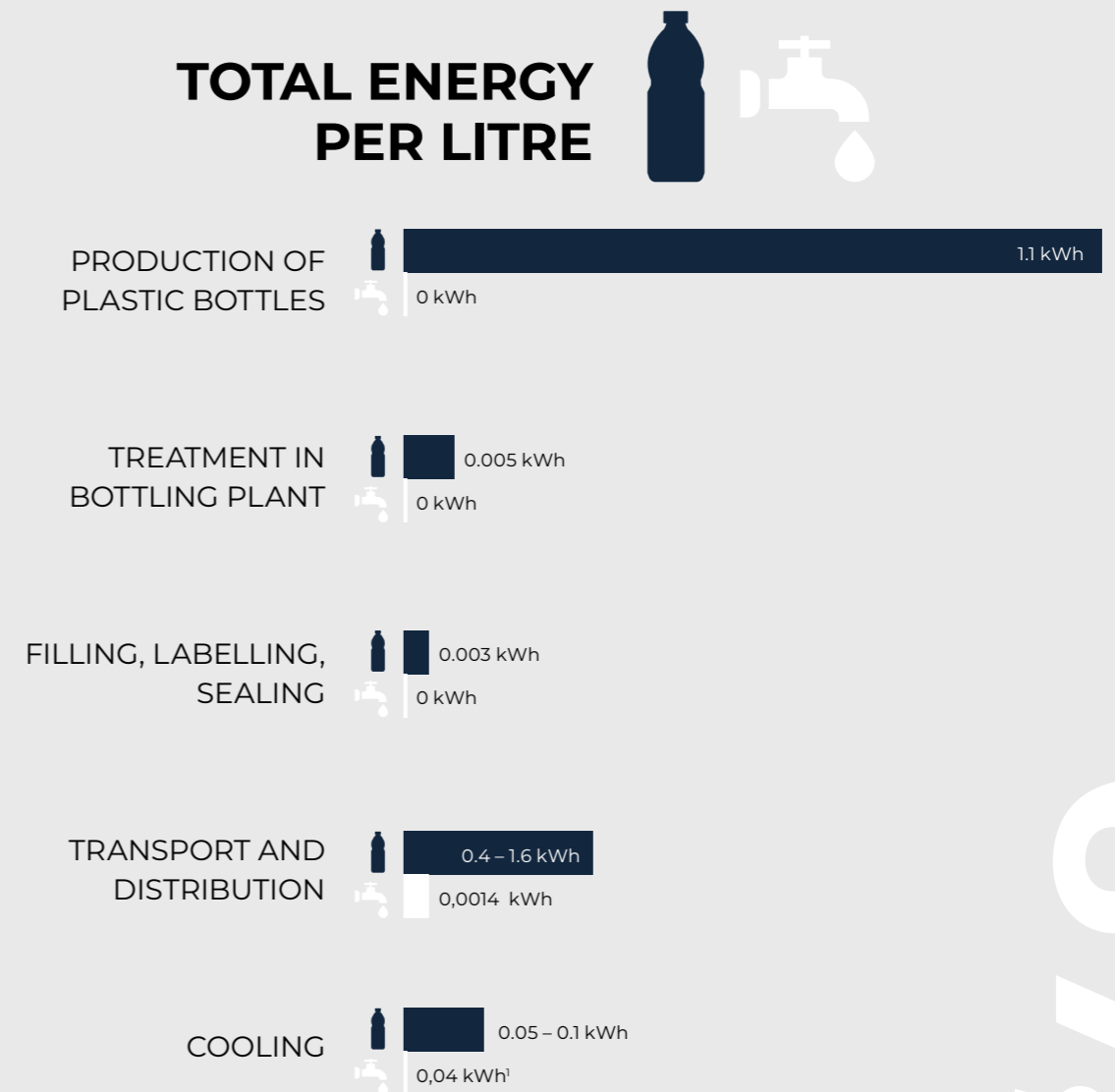
03. SAVE ENERGY

SAVE 180 KWH OF ENERGY PER EMPLOYEE EVERY YEAR

In this section, we provide an overview of the total energy requirements for the collecting, transport and handling of bottled water, plastic bottle production and cooling for sale, based on several hypotheticals.

For this analysis, we assume that water enters the bottling plant from municipal or self-supplied surface and groundwater, without requiring energy for long-distance transport via pipelines, aqueducts or pumping from deep underground.

Once at the bottling plant, the water undergoes additional treatment through a series of processes, including microfiltration, ozonation, ultraviolet radiation and reverse osmosis, before being put into PET bottles, sealed, labelled and packaged. It is then transported to consumers and sometimes chilled in refrigerators before use. Based on these assumptions, the total energy requirement for bottled water is 1.5 to 2.8 kWh per litre.



67,8

THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF TAP WATER REQUIRES 67.8 TIMES LESS ENERGY THAN BOTTLED WATER. ²

1. Figure based on a test performed on the AQUALEX Circulo.
 2. Source: Gleick, P. H., & Cooley, H. (2009). Energy implications of bottled water. Environmental Research Letters, 4(1), 014009. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/4/1/014009>



In comparison, tap water production typically requires about 0.0014 kWh per litre for treatment and distribution (Burton & Stern, 1993). Taking all factors of the total energy input into account, we estimate that the production of bottled water requires between 1.5 kWh and 2.8 kWh per litre, up to almost 68 times the amount of energy required for producing tap water.¹

Our analysis shows that, for water transported over short distances, the energy requirement for bottled water is largely made up of the energy required to produce the plastic bottles. However, transport over longer distances can result in energy costs equalling the energy used to produce the bottle. All other energy costs - processing, bottling, sealing, labelling and cooling - are comparatively much lower. Here, we did not take waste disposal into consideration.

○
With AQUALEX systems, you can avoid unnecessary energy consumption from bottled water production.



1. Source: Burton, F. L., & Stern, F. (1993, 1 March). Water and wastewater industries: Characteristics and DSM opportunities. Final report. <https://www.osti.gov/biblio/10139641>

Marc Vervisch and Pascal Vantomme

NTGRATE

Ntgrate develops and manufactures floor coverings, wall panels and furniture panels from woven vinyl. A first in the Belgian manufacturing industry, they received a rating of 'excellent' for their sustainable new building from BREEAM, a leading international assessment system for measuring the sustainable performance of buildings.

‘Thanks to AQUALEX, we manage to avoid a lot of plastic waste. For us, this is important, as a well-considered waste strategy is an important part of BREEAM.’





04. WATER CONSUMPTION

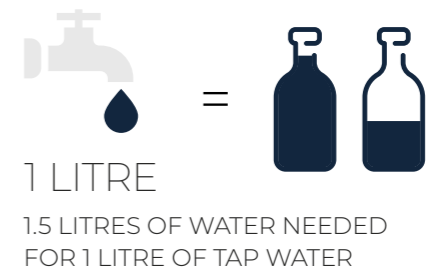
WASTE LESS WATER

You read that right: by choosing tap water, you can save water. This is because producing bottled water requires a significant amount of water.

According to a 2010 report by the Pacific Institute¹, about 3 litres of water is used to produce 1 litre of bottled water. At the same time, a significant amount of water is also required to produce the plastic bottles. According to a 2006 report by the Earth Policy Institute², about 1.5 litres of water is required to produce one 1-litre plastic water bottle. So, in total, approximately 4.5 litres of water is required to produce 1 litre of bottled water.

On the other hand, with tap water, only a limited amount of water is needed for its production. This is predominantly limited to the transporting and processing of the water, along with maintaining the necessary infrastructure.

It is important to note that these figures can vary depending on the location of the water source, the technology used and the size of the production unit. However, in terms of production, it is clear that bottled water requires a greater amount of water compared to tap water.



1. Source: Arnold, E. (2006). Bottled water: Pouring Resources Down the Drain.
2. Source: Marathe, K. V., Chavan, K. R., & Nakhate, P. H. (2019). Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of PET Bottles. Elsevier eBooks, 149–168. <https://doi.org/10.1016/b978-0-12-811361-5.00008-0>

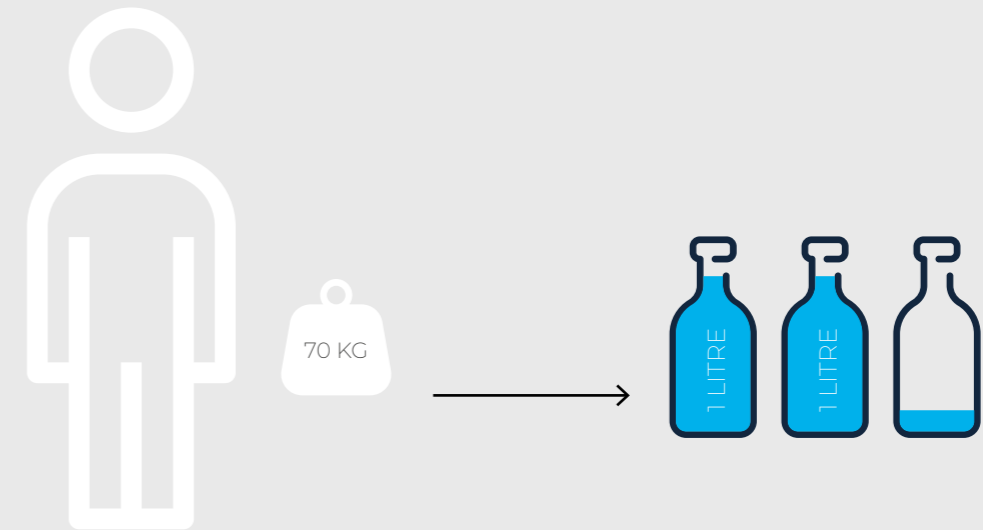
05. BOOST PRODUCTIVITY

BOOST YOUR EMPLOYEES' PRODUCTIVITY BY 15%



Our aesthetically pleasing, sustainable drinking water solutions are inviting, enticing your employees to drink more water and contributing to the well-being of everyone within your organisation.

It is important to drink plenty of water. In fact, water is the most important ingredient in the human body, with as much as 60-80% of our body weight consisting of water. Some vital components of our body therefore are mainly made up of water, including our lungs (85%), heart (75%) and blood (94%). While water is a significant part of the human body, it is often overlooked as an important nutrient that can affect not only physical, but also mental performance. By drinking enough water, it is possible to reduce mental and physical fatigue. When the body is dehydrated, this can lead to headaches, reduced concentration and decreased energy.



PER KILOGRAM OF BODY WEIGHT, IT IS RECOMMENDED TO DRINK 0.03 LITRES OF WATER PER DAY...





Drinking enough water allows the body to maintain the right level of fluids, reducing such symptoms and giving employees more energy to go about their work. Naturally, the extent to which employee productivity can be increased depends on several factors, such as the amount of water a person drinks, the body's initial state of hydration, as well as the specific working environment.

One study¹ conducted by the University of East London found that, in groups where employees drank 1.5 litres of water a day, productivity increased by 14% (Edmonds et al., 2021), unlike those who did not increase their drinks intake.

Employees who drink enough water see their reaction times drop by 14%, while their memory is improved by 30%



Another study conducted by Loughborough University found that workers who drank enough water saw their reaction time drop by 14% and their memory improve by 30% (Masento et al., 2014).²

The amount of water a person needs to drink daily for optimal body performance depends primarily on body weight. Generally, it is assumed that, per kilogram of body weight, you should consume at least 0.03 litres of water per day. Therefore, someone weighing 50 kg should aim to drink 1.5 litres of water per day, whereas someone who weighs 70 kg should be aiming for at least 2.1 litres.

It can be useful to convert your recommended amount of water per day into number of glasses. Most glasses hold around 250 ml, so you would need four to make up a litre. Fortunately, say you need to consume two litres in a day, you do not have to knock back eight glasses of water in a row. In fact, it is actually better to spread these out a bit throughout the day. If you find it hard to drink enough, you can set timers on your phone or think of set times to have another glass. While drinking eight glasses of water per day may seem like a lot, if you drink a glass of water every hour during an eight-hour working day, you will have no trouble getting there!

1. Source: Edmonds, C. J., Beeley, J., Rizzo, I., Booth, P., & Gardner, M. (2021). Drinking Water Enhances Cognitive Performance: Positive Effects on Working Memory But Not Long-Term Memory. *Journal of Cognitive Enhancement*, 6(1), 67-73. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41465-021-00225-4>
 2. Source: Masento, N., Golightly, M., Field, D., Butler, L., & Van Reekum, C. (2014). Effects of hydration status on cognitive performance and mood. *British Journal of Nutrition*, 111(10), 1841-1852. doi:10.1017/S0007114513004455

CALCULATE THE IMPACT OF YOUR AQUALEX INSTALLATION

You see: the installation of one or more AQUALEX drinking water systems will allow you to significantly reduce your company's ecological footprint. The checklist below will help you to easily calculate your savings. The result is always valid for one working day. Multiply it by the number of annual working days to calculate your annual savings.

HOW MUCH CO₂ COULD YOU SAVE?

employees litres per day

..... X X 258.83 g of CO₂ * = grammes orkg of CO₂ cut per day

(* difference between CO₂ consumption from tap water [0.17 g] and bottled water [259 g])

..... X 250* =kg of CO₂ cut per year

* working days per year

HOW MUCH PLASTIC WASTE COULD YOU SAVE?

employees litres per day

..... X X 30 g* = g orkg of plastic waste saved per day

(*weight of one empty 1-litre plastic bottle)

..... X 250* =kg of plastic waste saved per year

* working days per year

HOW MUCH ENERGY COULD YOU SAVE?

employees litres per day

..... X X 2,7666 kWh* = kWh saved per day

(*2.808 kWh energy per litre of bottled water and 0.0414 kWh energy per litre of tap water)

..... X 250* =kWh saved per year

* working days per year

HOW MANY LITRES OF WATER COULD YOU SAVE?

employees litres per day

..... X X 3 litres* = litres of water saved per day

(*4.5 litres of water needed for 1 litre of bottled water and 1.5 litres of water needed for 1 litre of tap water)

..... X 250* =litres of water saved per year

* working days per year

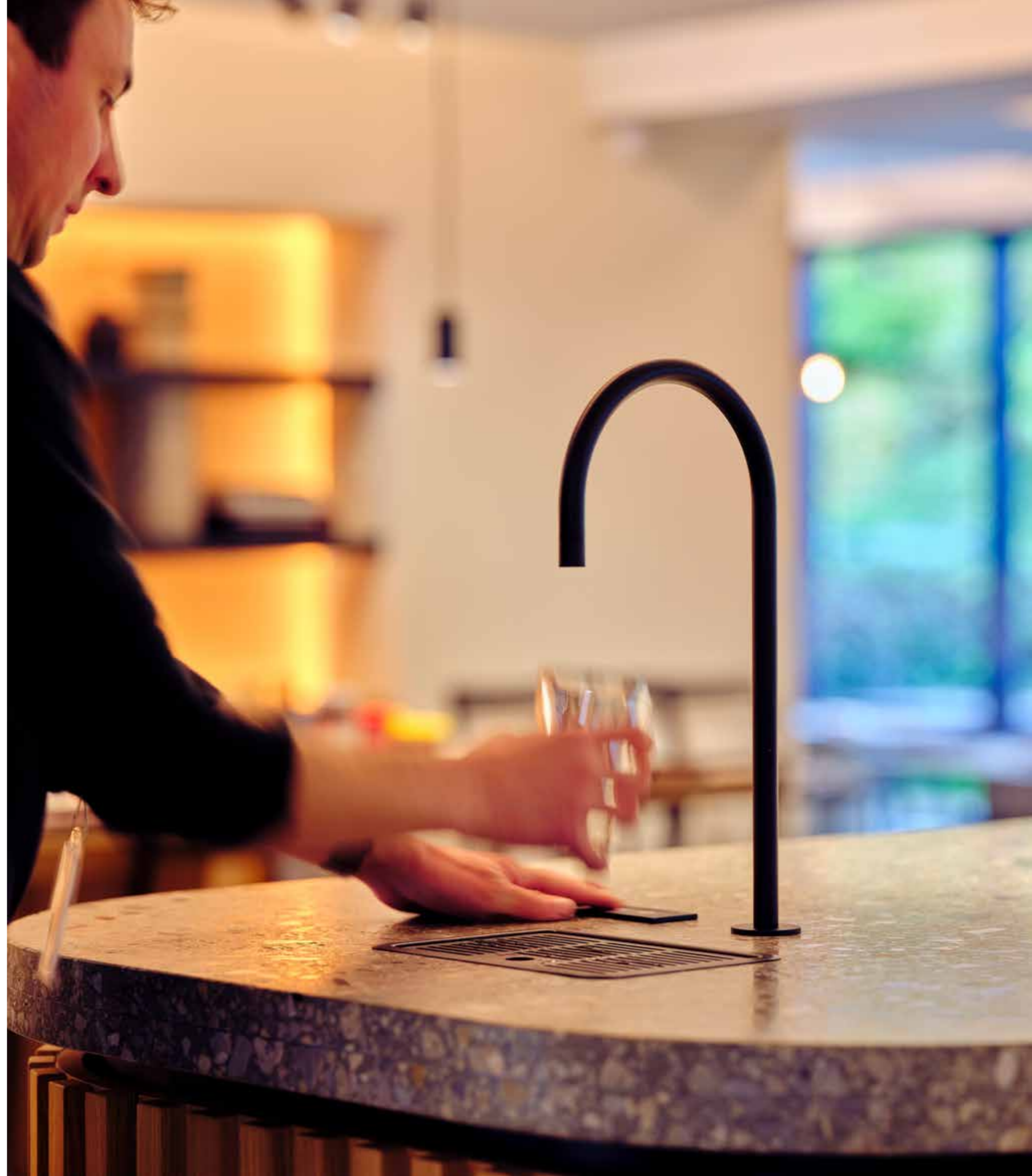


Anne-Sophie Delen

BANK DELEN

After a thorough renovation, Delen Private Bank's head office on Jan Van Rijswijcklaan in Antwerp has become an absolute gem. Sustainability is a top priority for the company. The new offices are therefore equipped with optimum insulation, solar panels, charging stations, a smart lighting system and multiple AQUALEX drinking water systems.

'We have always found it important to provide a comfortable working environment.'



AQUALEX IS COMMITTED TO MAKING BUSINESSES MORE SUSTAINABLE

Our vision? By 2030, we will all be able to drink tap water. Anytime, anywhere. To see any bottled water, you would have to go to a museum.

Therefore, **our mission** is to make the experience of drinking tap water as enjoyable as possible. We provide premium, great-tasting water in a variety of temperatures and textures. Served via drinking water systems that are sure to impress with their sustainable use of materials and outstanding design. We put ease of use at the heart of what we do, removing the need to lug, stockpile and transport containers of water.

Our unique difference makers: at AQUALEX, we are offering designer drinking water solutions, dispensing filtered chilled, sparkling and hot water. Thanks to our in-house R&D team, these are the most innovative products available in the drinking water system and multifunctional tap market. Our experienced sales

o

At AQUALEX we are strongly committed to several SDGs.



consultants help guide our customers in creating tailor-made solutions, taking their respective contexts, locations and individual needs into account. Our technical experts take care of everything, both installing and maintaining the products. We mainly provide drinking water solutions through service contracts, meaning we are able to offer more circular products.

The bond between us 'amigos' is strong, thanks to our 'work hard, play hard' mentality, our adaptability, and the fact that we are generally approachable, enthusiastic and open-minded.

Sustainable business development is central to what we do, with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) becoming ever more important for businesses and organisations. They provide a framework for sustainable development and represent a concerted effort by the international community to tackle poverty, inequality and climate change. Companies can play an important role in achieving these SDGs, by adapting their own business activities and investing in sustainable solutions. This will also enable them to meet customer, investor and regulatory expectations, while at the same time creating new business opportunities.

For the reasons stated above, we at AQUALEX are very strongly committed to a number of these SDGs.



Good health and well-being

Drinking enough water every day is important for our health. At AQUALEX, we promote the availability of drinking water with our products, which supports SDG 3.4 to 'promote mental health and well-being'. Among other things, our products filter out bacteria from water, thereby supporting subgoals 3.3 'reducing water-borne diseases' and 3.9 'reducing deaths and diseases due to water pollution and contamination'.



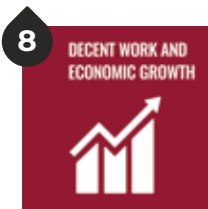
Gender equality

AQUALEX has a 'no gender' policy when it comes to salary, with both men and women paid equally for any same position within the company. Our top tier management is made up of 80% men and 20% women.



Clean water and sanitation

SDG 6 is AQUALEX's whole raison d'être. We actively contribute towards subgoal 6.6 'achieve universal and equal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all' by cooperating with, among others, Flemish tap water companies De Watergroep and Farys. Together, we are installing public drinking fountains to provide freely available quality drinking water for anyone, from tourists and commuters to the homeless.



Decent work and economic growth

SDG 8 is being supported by our CAGR of 58% over the last 13 years, which is clearly contributing to economic growth. We have an intrinsic intention to provide decent work.



Reduced inequalities

AQUALEX's current workforce is made up of 95 employees, three of whom were born outside of Belgium. We are open to making our recruitment process more centred around objective 10.2 'involve everyone, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status'. As part of our vision for sustainable business, we support initiatives such as G football in Kortrijk, the River Cleanup and water provision projects in Africa.



Sustainable cities and communities

We are currently supporting SDG 11 through subgoals 11.1 'ensure access to basic services for all' and 11.6 'reduce the environmental impact of cities, including through waste management'. By working on providing access to drinking water in public spaces, the use of (plastic) bottles is reduced, resulting in less waste. What's more, our new outdoor drinking water dispenser ALASQ provides passers-by with tasty drinking water, all from a user-friendly and hygienic source.



Responsible consumption and production

We are always looking for ways to extend the life of our products. Just look at our latest innovation. With Circulo, we have a freestanding water column constructed entirely out of recycled materials. With its exceptionally long life cycle, it is easy to repair, while the housing and tap are also 100% recyclable. Circulo can only be rented out. We are responsible for the system throughout its life cycle, thereby ensuring that we are able to reuse parts and/or materials at a later date.



Climate action

SDG 13 is currently being actively supported through AQUALEX's value proposition. We offer an alternative to bottled water, reducing the need for single-use plastics and thereby minimising its transport and distribution. As a result, we are contributing towards cutting CO₂ emissions. What's more, we also play an active role in various waste management initiatives.



Life below water

Through offering a water distribution product, we are closely linked to this particular SDG. Promoting tap water consumption is a direct way of preventing and significantly reducing the production of single-use plastics. This will result in a reduction in microplastics entering the oceans, thereby improving water quality and preventing the pollution of the world's oceans.

Vic Hoste
PLAY AV

PLAY AV is a reference for the audio-visual technology sector. Across their Nazareth headquarters and Zonhoven branch, they employ some 50 employees. As a way of both ensuring the well-being of their motivated team and focusing on sustainability, Play AV decided to have an AQUALEX drinking water system installed.

'AQUALEX's system is both innovative and in keeping with our image. For us, it has become part of how we choose to brand ourselves as an employer.'

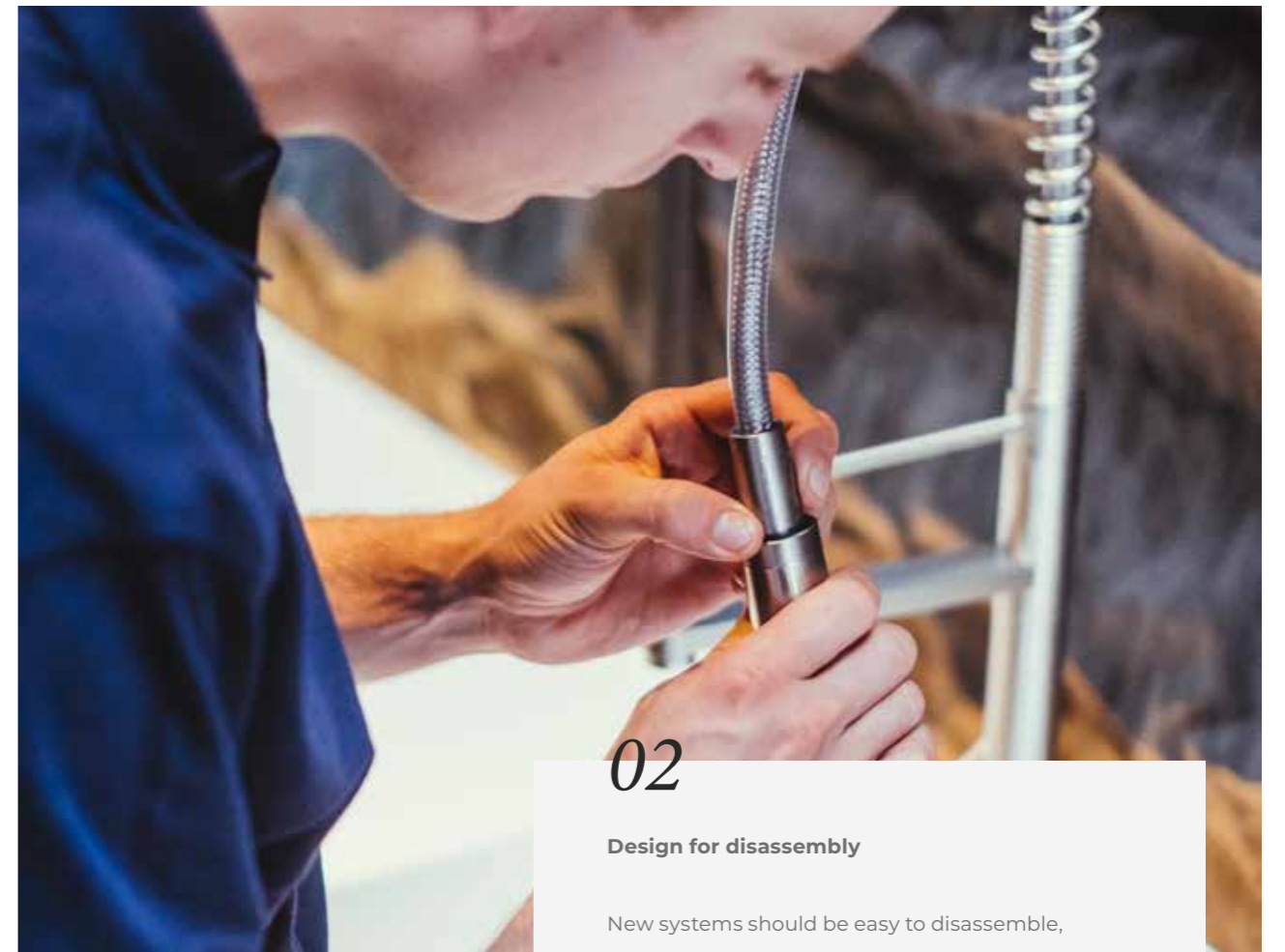
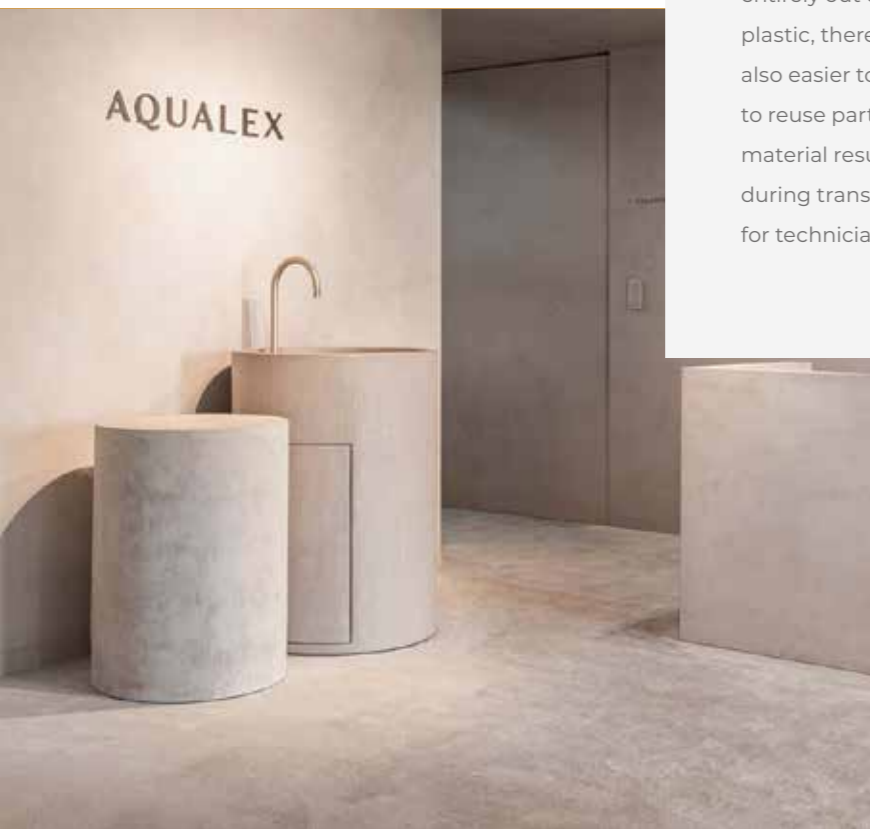


SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE

01

Metal tabletop model

Many drinking water appliances are either made of or contain plastic parts. This is not the case with the new AQUALEX table top model, which is made entirely out of aluminium. Metal lasts longer than plastic, thereby extending system life cycles. It is also easier to recycle than plastic, with the option to reuse parts for new appliances. The use of lighter material results in a reduction of CO₂ emissions during transport, while also facilitating repair work for technicians.



02

Design for disassembly

New systems should be easy to disassemble, allowing you to replace and repair parts more quickly and therefore keep the system in use for longer. The three basic components – machine, housing and tap – can be taken apart separately. Why? Say only the machine is faulty, it then becomes possible to keep the same housing and tap, then simply installing a new machine. Is it just the housing that is broken? Time to simply put the machine into a new shell.

03

Refurbishing

Got a damaged tap? Perhaps the coating is scratched? We will take the tap back, remove the existing coating and cover it with a new one. This will also extend the life of the tap. In situations with shorter lead times, we can also provide refurbished appliances, subject to mutual agreement with the end customer.

04

On the road towards greener transportation

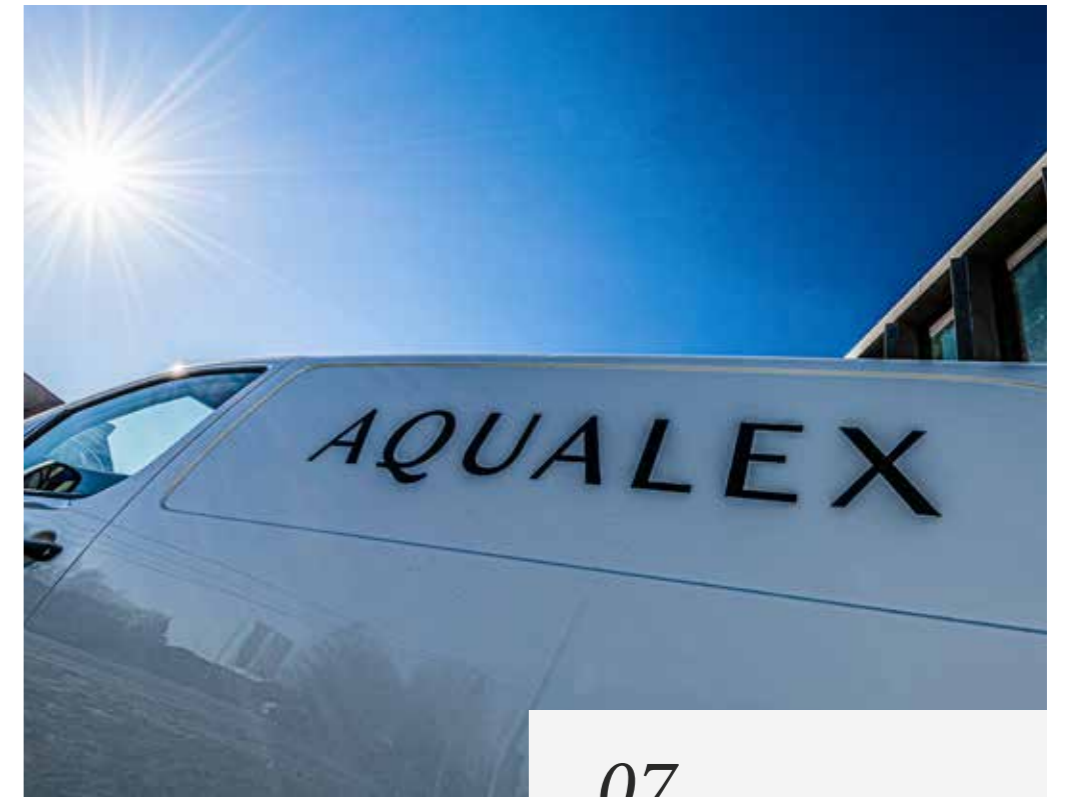
With the rental model being applied in the B2B market, we have full control over the life cycles of the systems. We are able to take back old units, replace and repair parts and give each system (or parts of it) a second, third, even fourth life. The B2B sales model is not yet being applied in the B2C market. Once sold, we have no idea what happens to the system at the end of its life cycle. We are therefore exploring the potential of a 'water as a service' model for the B2C market. End users will therefore no longer purchase the system outright, rather pay a fixed monthly fee to use it. Any repairs or replacements will be entirely at AQUALEX's expense. The benefit for the end user? The financial threshold is lower than for a simple purchase. After a few years, the user will be able to replace the tap with another, trendier model, or perhaps one with additional features. At the same time, the user will be helping the planet in two ways, by drinking tap water and by using a device that is designed to last longer.



05

From copper to stainless steel

The water collection tray contains copper to prevent the growth of bacteria. However, copper is a scarce resource. That is why our R&D team is looking into developing alternatives out of more durable stainless steel, while of course retaining the powerful hygienic qualities of copper. At the same time, we are also moving away from chrome.



07

Locally produced wherever possible

We are aiming to keep production of our systems as local as possible. The Circulo, ALASQ, new taps and drip trays are all already largely produced locally, thereby reducing transport and creating jobs on our own doorstep.

06

Use of ecological cooling gas

For our systems, we use cooling gasses R600a and R290. This is a natural cooling gas with a very low GWP score of 3. Both R600 and R290 have a GWP of only 3 and contain no fluorine or chlorine.



AQUALEX CIRCULO

A NEW SYSTEM MADE FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS

The AQUALEX Circulo is a sleekly designed, remarkably sustainable water column made using recycled materials.

The housing is partially made of recycled waste. One version is 20% made up of old fishing nets, retrieved from old fishing boats, ground into pellets and mixed with plastic. A second version incorporates waste flax fibre. The Circulo is designed to last as long as possible. The housing, for example, is made from particularly sturdy plastic, similar to that used for kayaks. The tap comes in unpainted stainless steel, a highly durable material. Something that also affects this system's life cycle is its ease of repair. The designers took this into account following a principle of 'design for disassembly'.

The AQUALEX Circulo was designed to keep electricity consumption to a minimum. In standby mode, the system consumes 7W of power, resulting in a total annual energy consumption of around 60 kWh. This is about half the amount consumed by most modern and sustainable refrigerators bearing energy label A.

Last but not least, the Circulo is only available for rental use. This is part of our sustainable approach, as it keeps us in a position of responsibility for the system, thereby ensuring that we can recycle the parts and/or materials for new appliances thereafter.





AQUALEX ALASQ

AN OUTDOOR DRINKING WATER TAP FOR PASSERS-BY

The ALASQ is an elegant, user-friendly and hygienic outdoor water dispenser. AQUALEX designed the ALASQ with the discerning passer-by in mind: someone who wants to refill their water bottle quickly, easily and hygienically.

The drinking water system with filtered still drinking water combines ease of use with attention to quality, design and ecology. The opening is less than a metre off the ground, meaning anyone – including children and wheelchair users – can easily access it. After 30 seconds, the water stops flowing automatically, thereby avoiding any potential water wastage.



AQUALEX IS ISO 9001 CERTIFIED

ISO 9001 is an international standard that aims to implement a quality management system in companies and organisations of all sizes and in all business sectors.

AQUALEX is ISO 9001:2015 certified to develop, assemble, sell, install and service drinking water systems.

The main benefits of adhering to the ISO 9001 standard include improving performance and competitiveness, improving customer satisfaction, improving employee involvement and adopting a long-term, high-quality approach.

The ISO 9001 standard sets out specific requirements relating to a quality management system (QMS) through which an organisation can rely on the following principles:

- committed management
- customer focus
- committed personnel
- a process-based approach
- a systems-based approach
- an approach centred around continuous improvement
- evidence-based decision-making
- mutually beneficial supplier relationships



AND IT DOESN'T STOP THERE!

As you can see: AQUALEX has already made a great many strides in terms of sustainability. Naturally, however, there is always room for improvement. A recent audit revealed some potential areas that we will be working on over the coming years:

- using energy and resources even more efficiently
- taking greater ownership of what happens to the product at the end of its life cycle
- better identifying the origins of recycled plastics
- establishing a sustainable purchasing policy
- integrating plastic bottle waste into new products
- committing even more to the seamless substitution of components in product designs
- working more closely with suppliers and moving them towards a sustainable production model
- urging the government to take greater action towards creating a more sustainable society
- planning our own transport routes for 100% efficiency
- implementing a track & trace system with a motor consumption option

**GOT ANY QUESTIONS?
PLEASE GET IN TOUCH**

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