

23 October 2007

On behalf of the Blueprint for Water campaign
www.blueprintforwater.org.uk

Sir,

Every year we use more and more water in our homes. Today, each person uses on average 150-180 litres per day, with much of that wasted. Climate change is likely to result in drier summers and, if we don't start wasting less, there may not be enough water for us or for our environment.

With thousands of new homes planned and climate change threatening our water supplies, we must waste less now or face the possibility that there will not be enough for us or for wildlife in the future.

That is why we welcome the Government's recent announcement to update the old water restrictions legislation. The current legislation, written in 1945, does not reflect the society we live in today. The new legislation will include bans on non-essential water use such as washing caravans, using pressure washers and topping up swimming pools and hot tubs. During the last drought we saw some people, a small minority, still washing their patios with pressure washers – while their neighbours were banned from watering their vegetables with a hosepipe.

Of course water restrictions are not the only answer – they are simply one solution to prevent more drastic measures during times of a severe drought. It is everyone's responsibility to use water wisely now so we are not in a position where water restriction measures are enforced. One way of doing this is cutting back on non essential use of tap water and using a water butt outdoors to water gardens and wash cars.

Yours faithfully,

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