




ENVIRONMENT  
DAY 2026





RAINWATER HARVESTING  
**Matt Wheeldon**  
Director of Infrastructure Development  
Wessex Water

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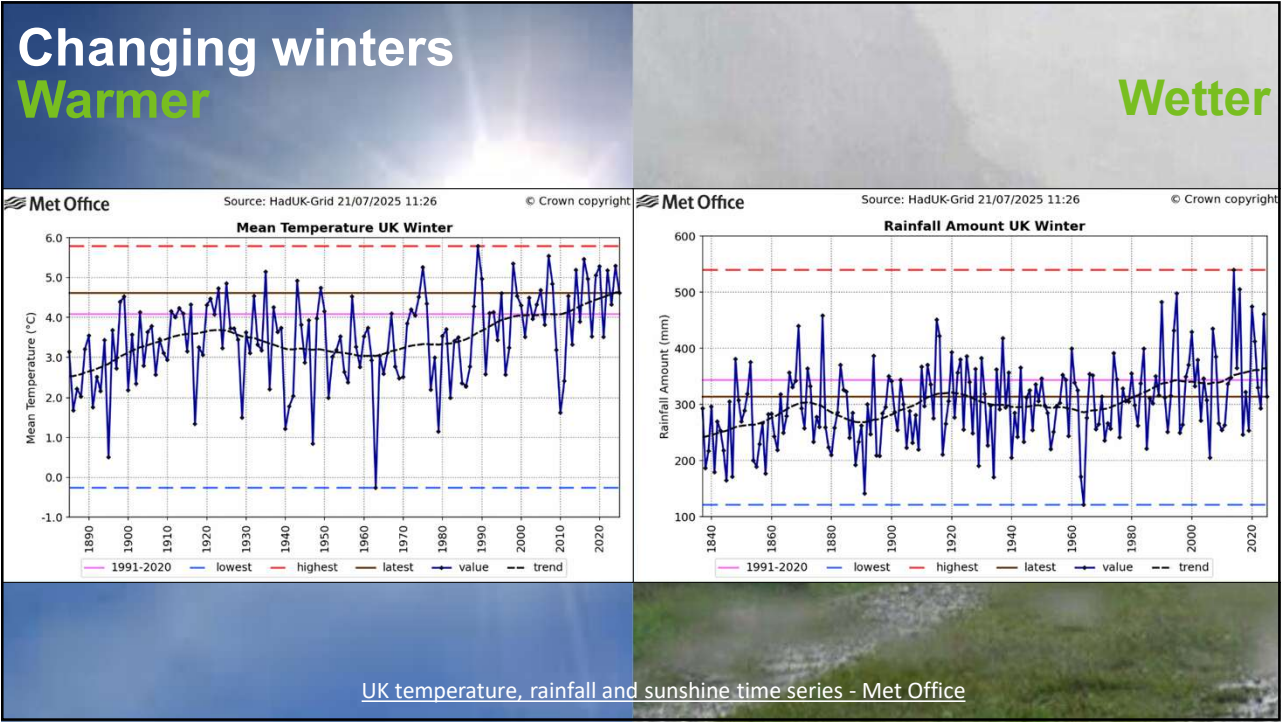
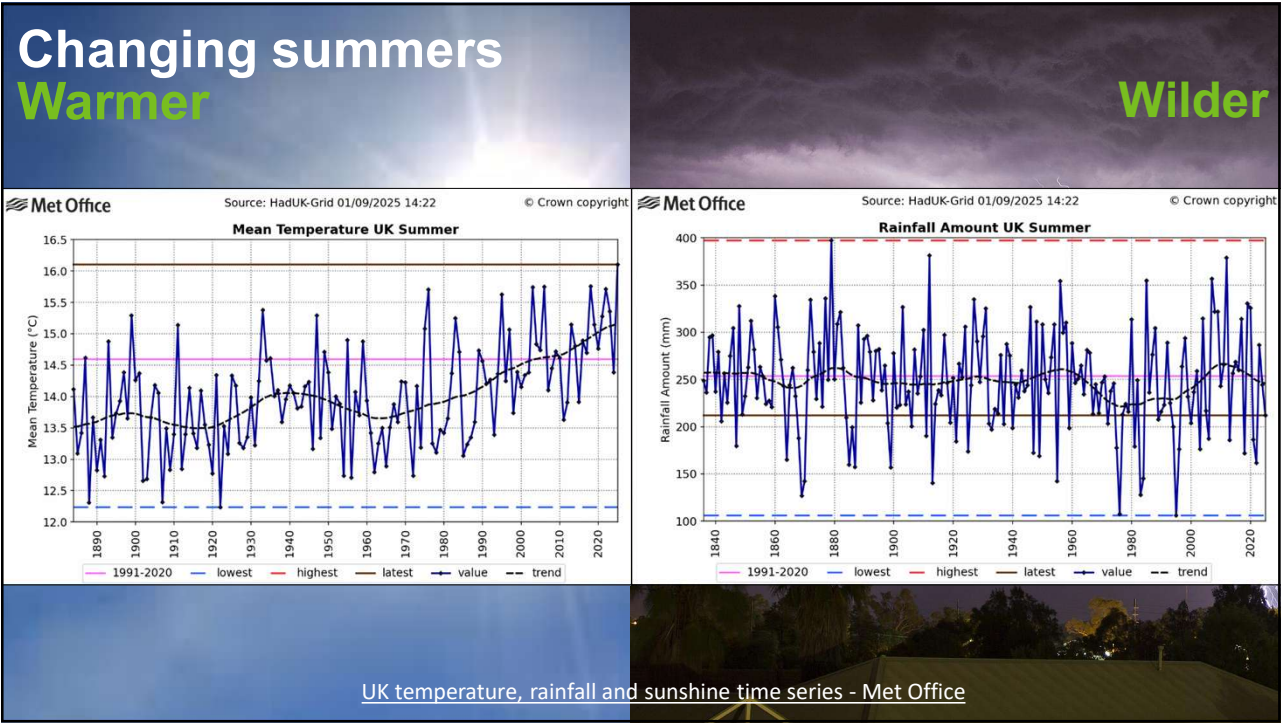


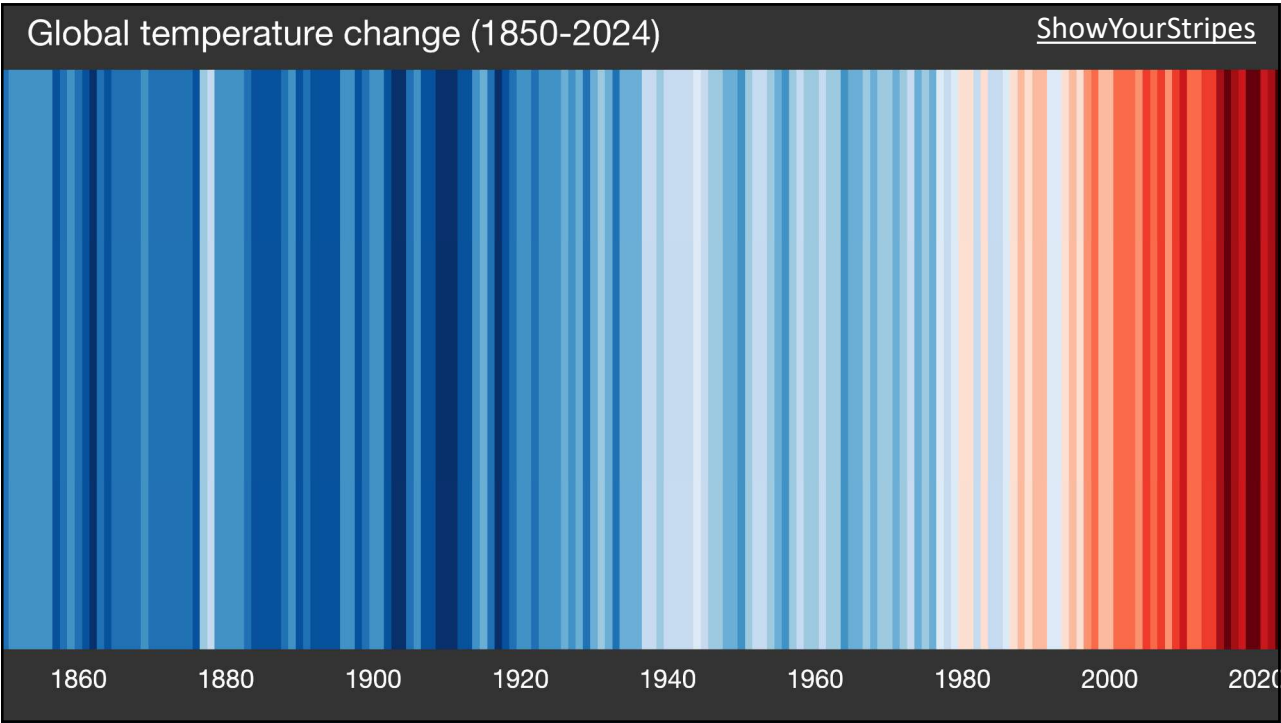
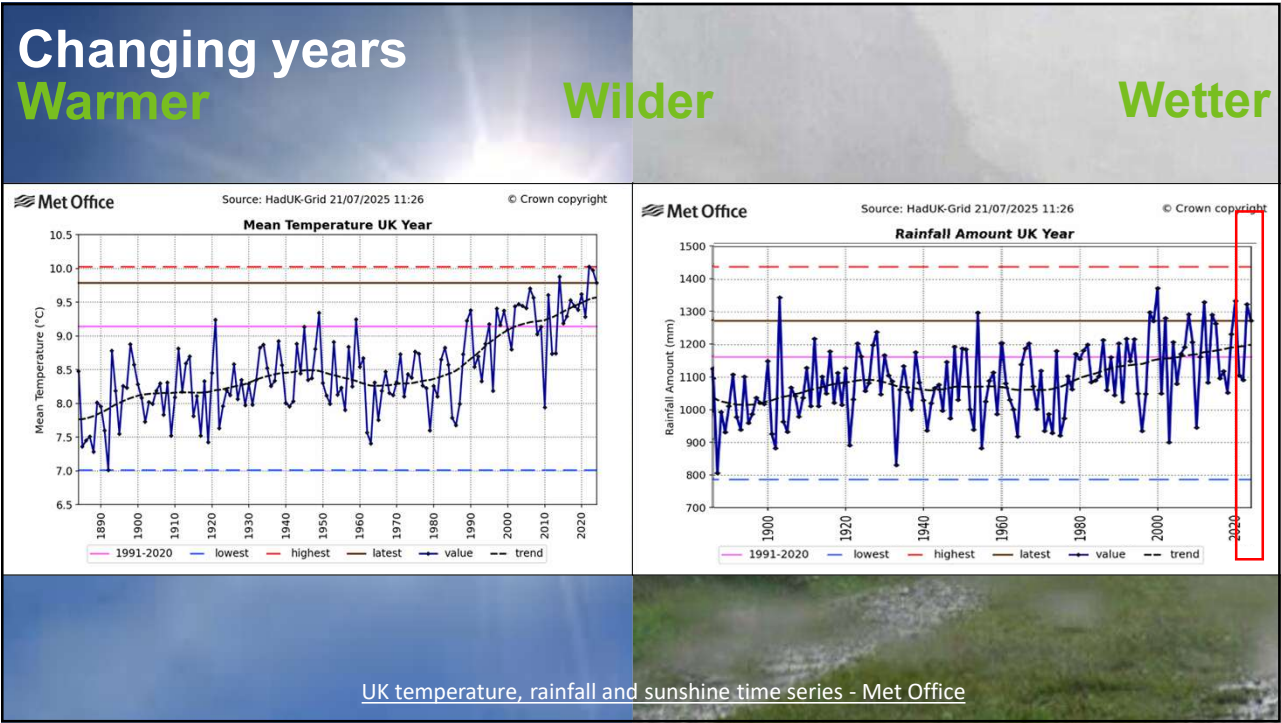
Managing rain better  
where it lands  
Why and how?

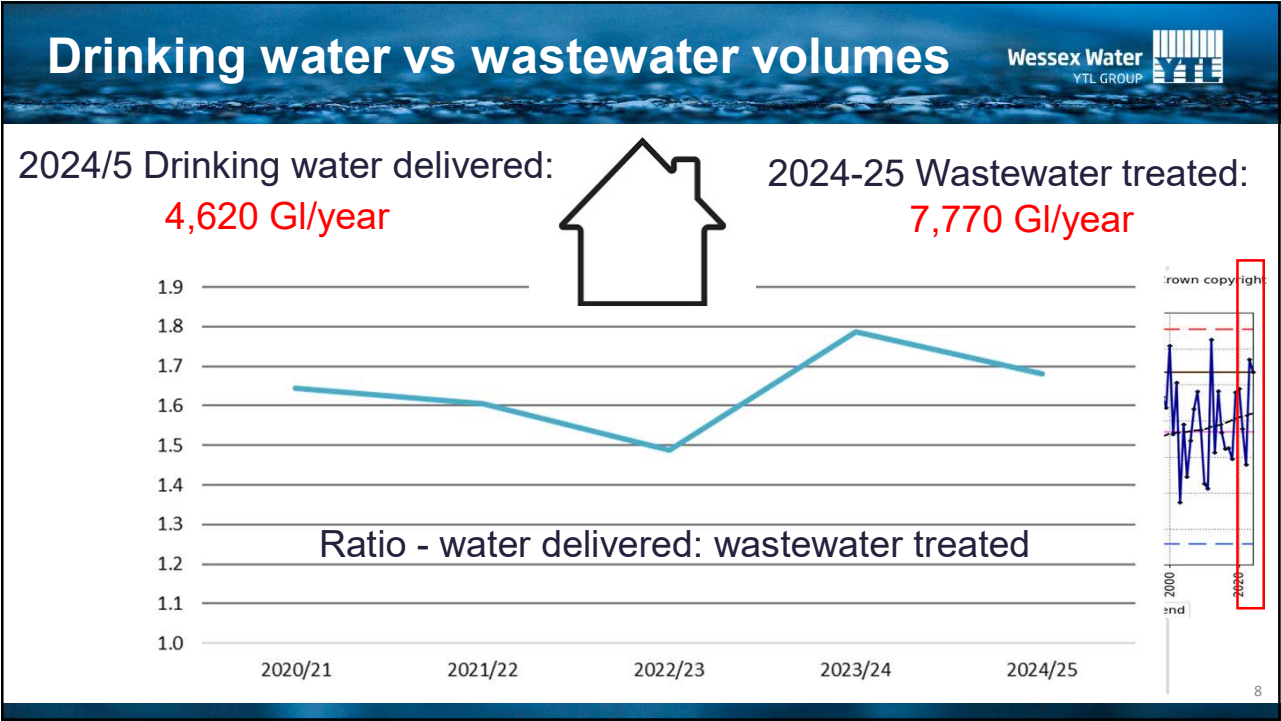
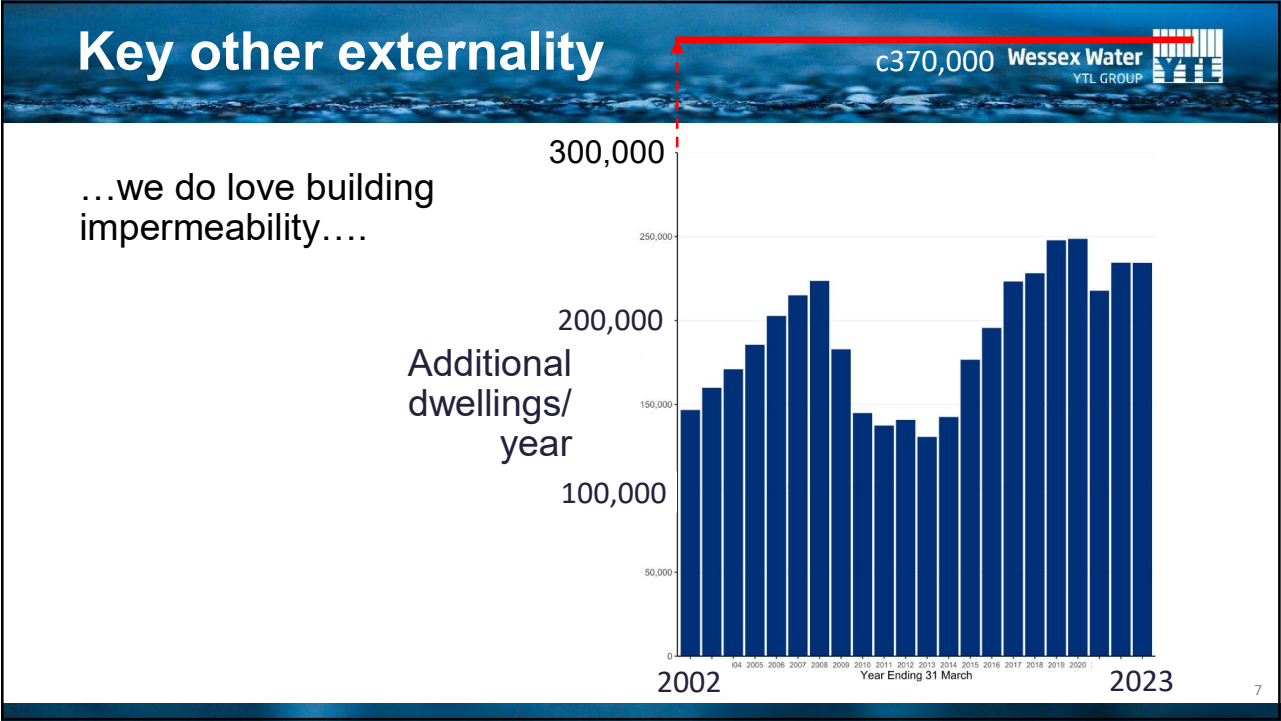
Association of Drainage Authorities  
Environment Day 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026  
Matt Wheeldon – Infrastructure Development Director

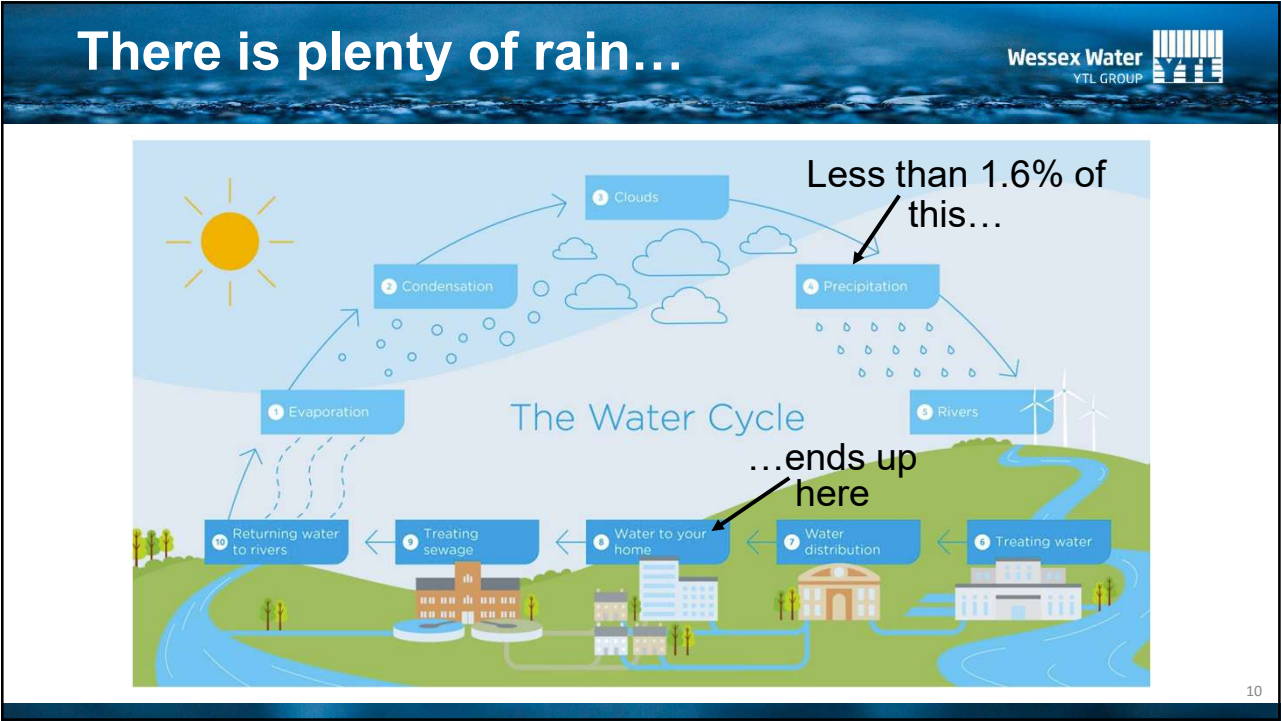
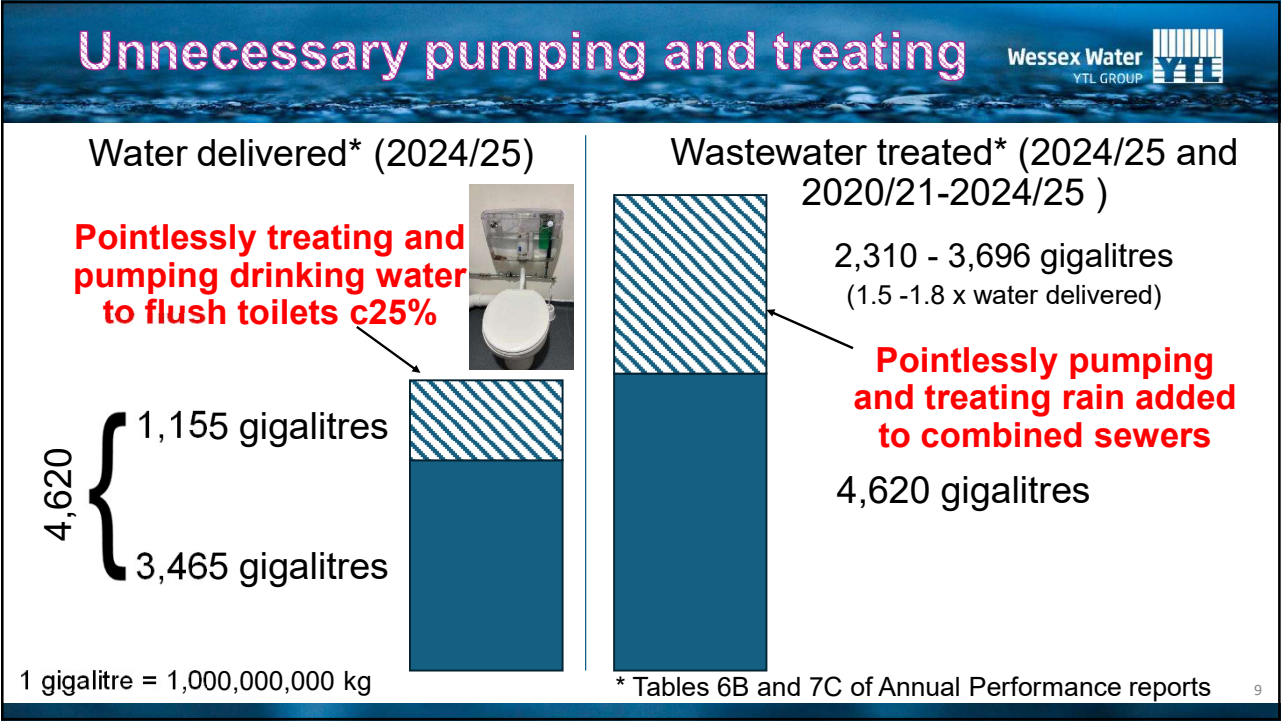
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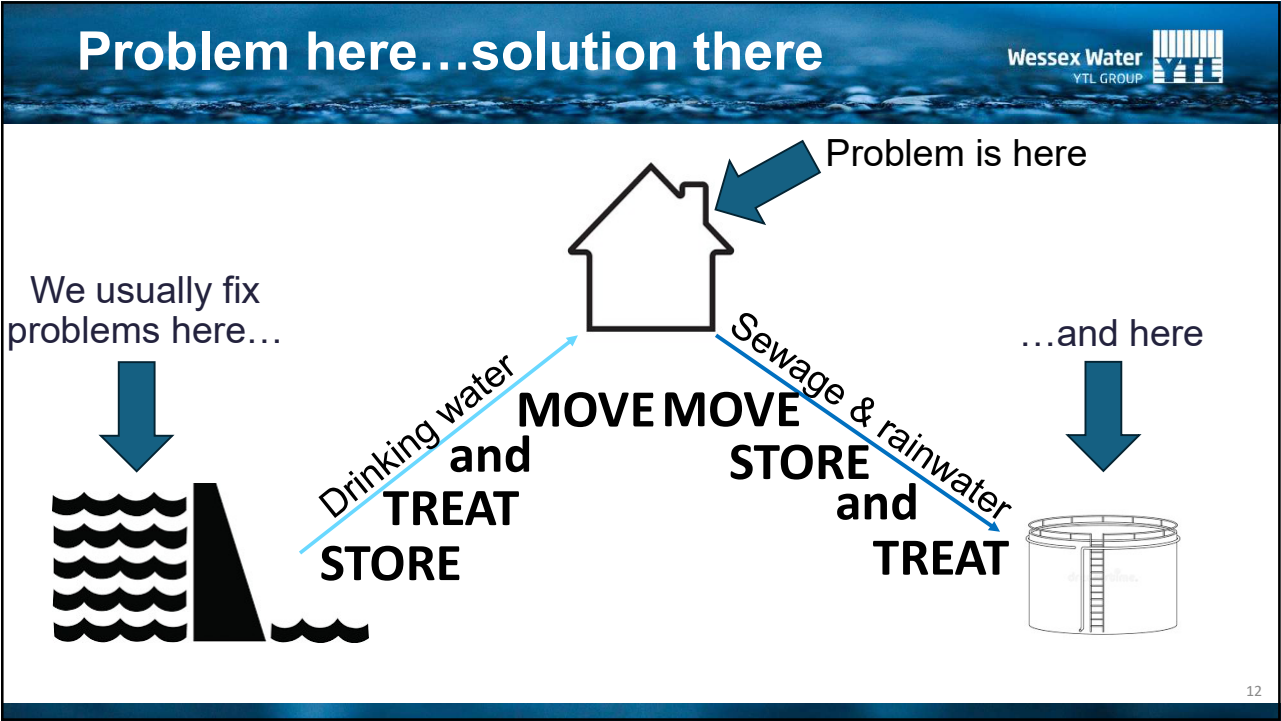
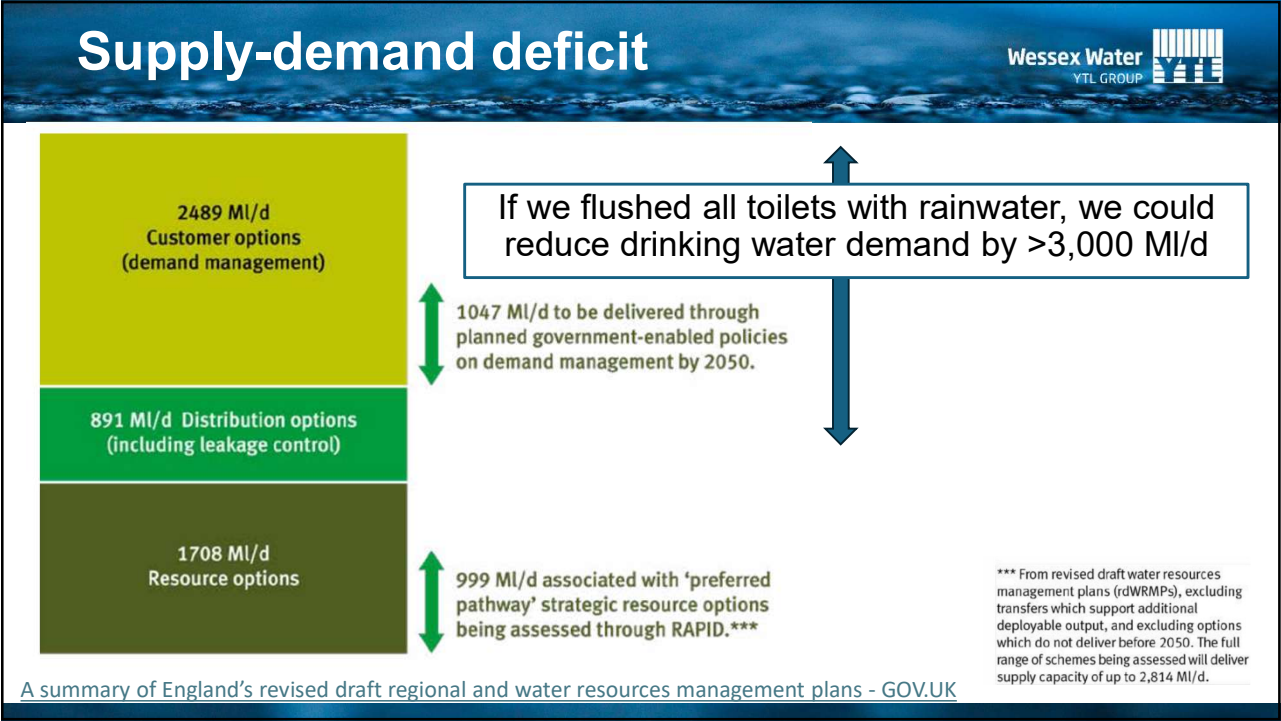


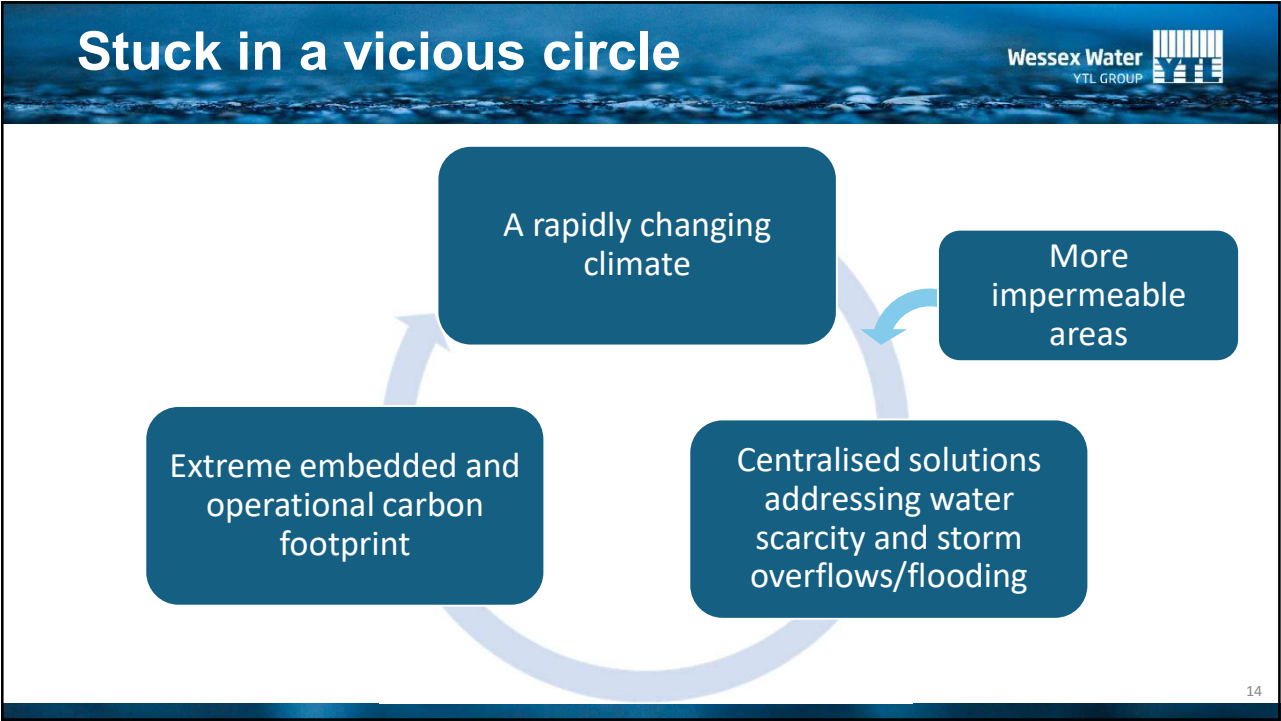
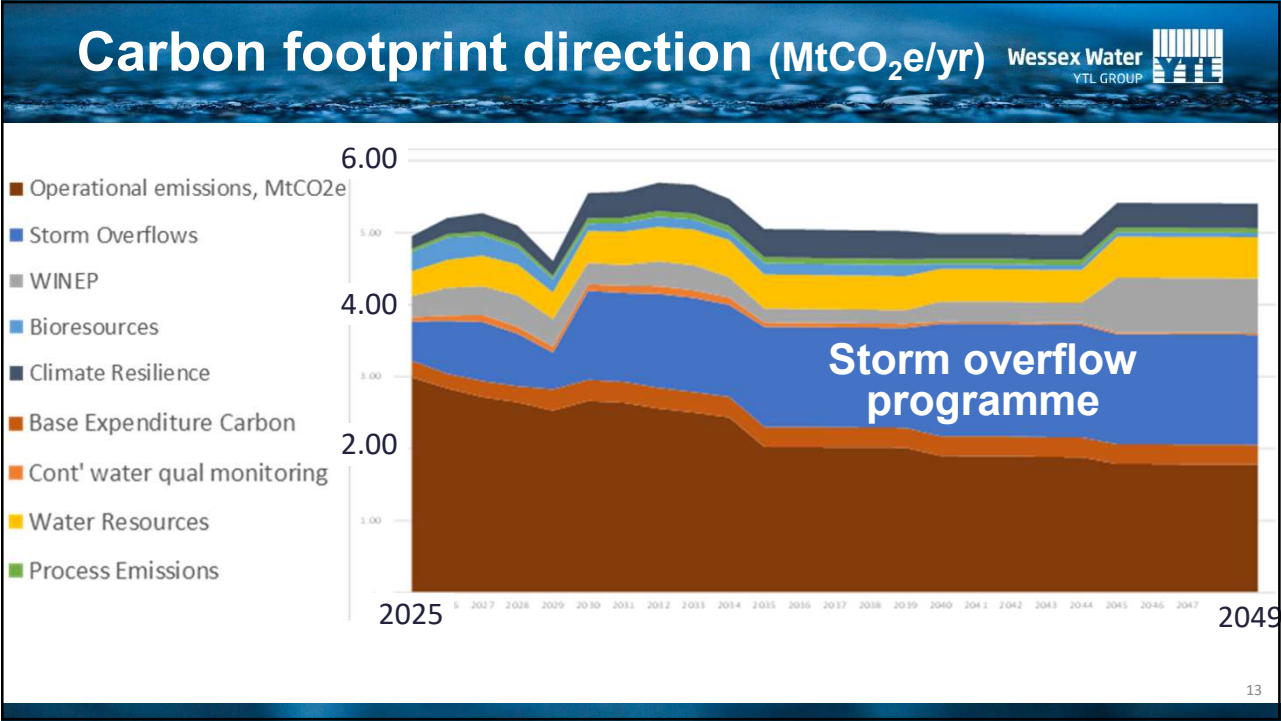












**Q: How do we break this circle?**

**A: We manage rain better where it lands**

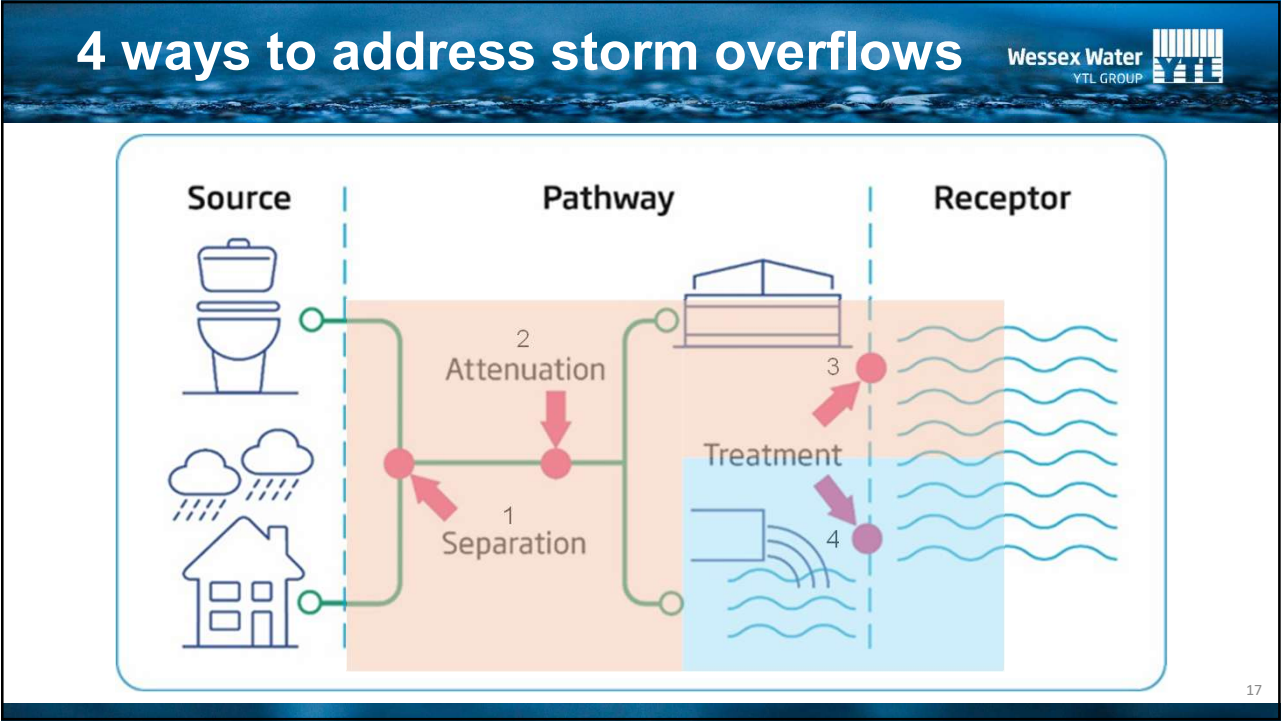
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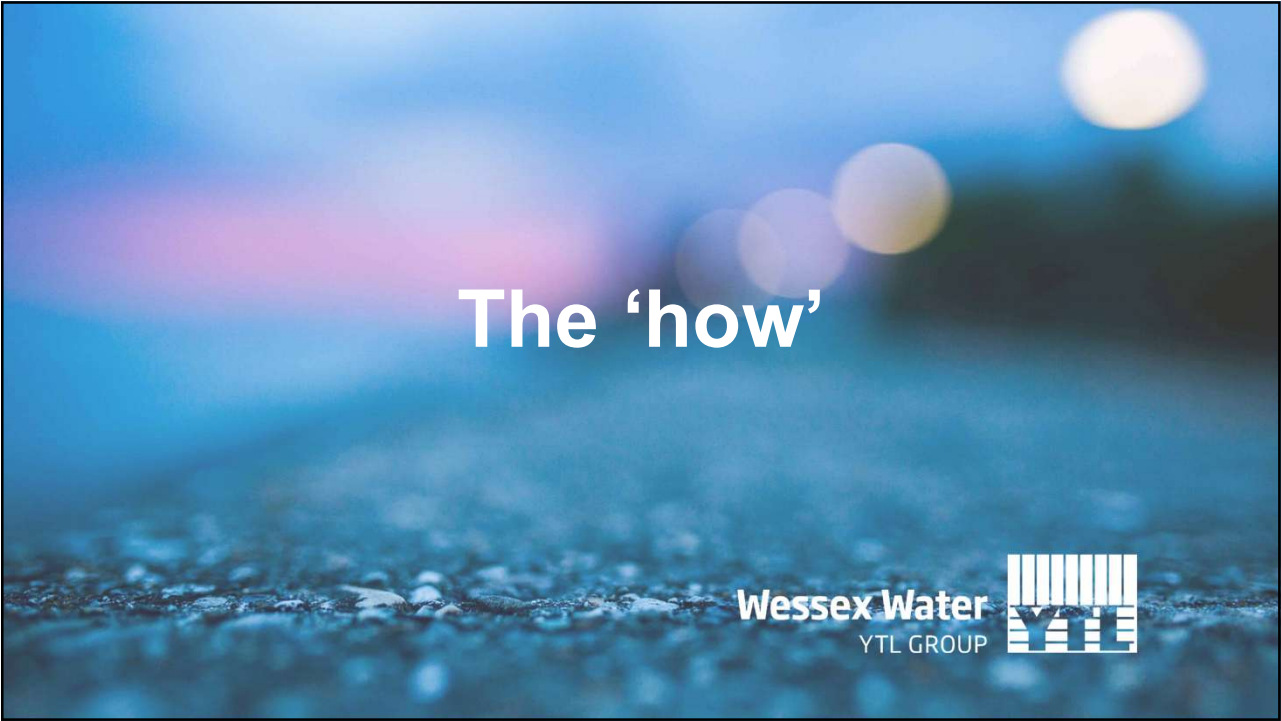
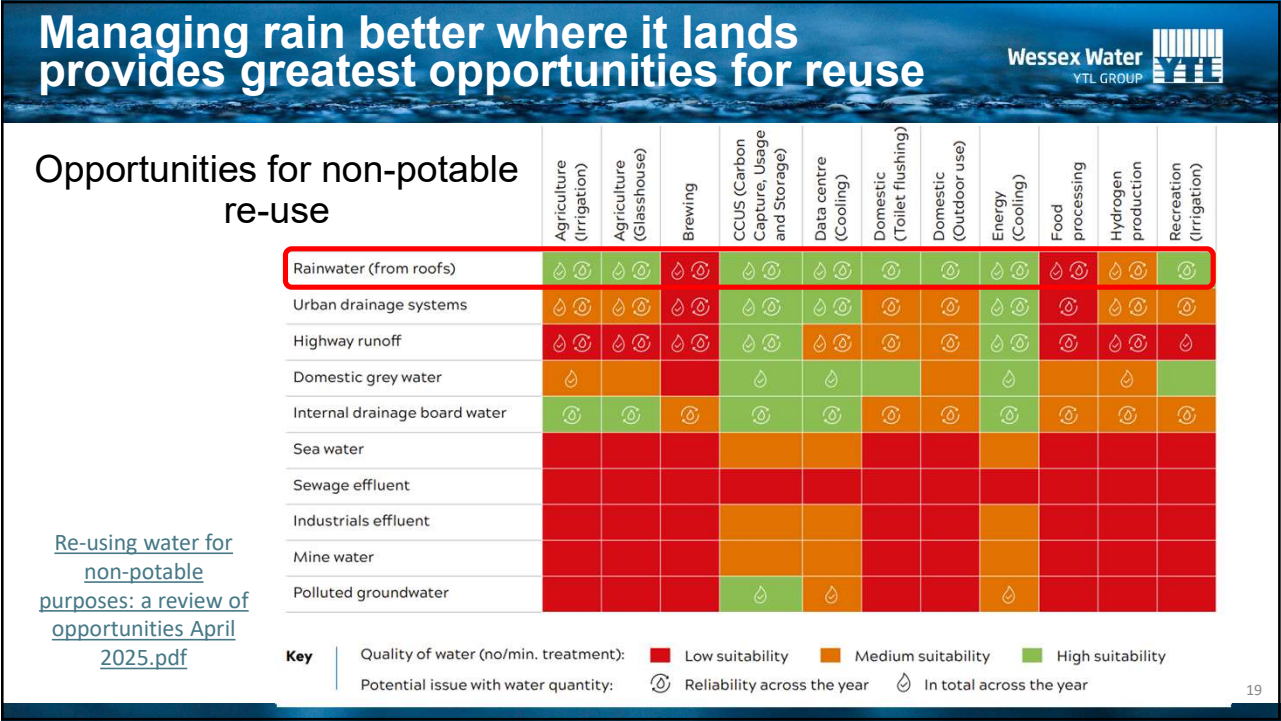
**Simple ‘back to nature’ principles**

1. Rain is a resource that should be captured locally and reused where possible
2. Rain should be returned back to the environment as close as possible to where it landed

**“Simple principles”**

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Diagram illustrating the five pillars supporting the framework:

- Legislation
- Regulation
- Economic incentives
- Education
- Technical Guidance

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**Return rain to the environment as close as possible to where it landed**

- Mandate rainwater harvesting (Doc G)

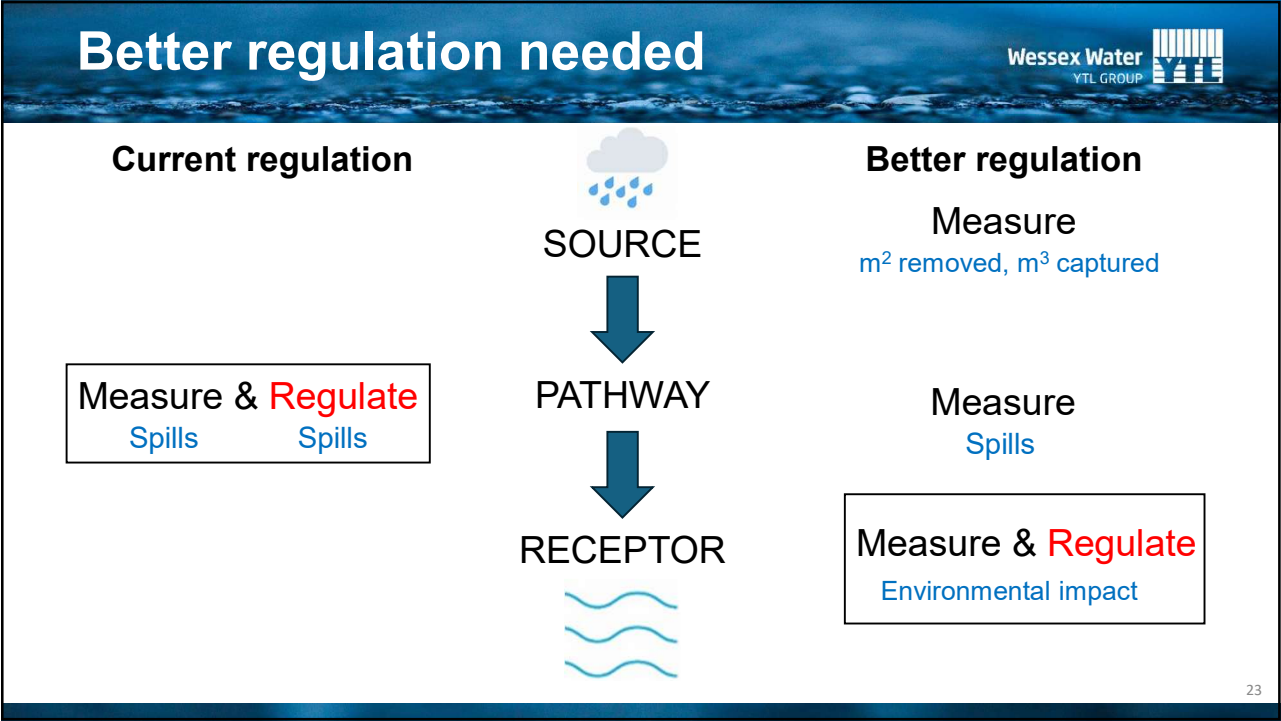
- Mandate sustainable drainage (Sched 3/Doc H)
- Give powers to discharge rain to watercourses
- Remove the 'right' to add rain to sewers carrying sewage (\$106)

NB Doesn't meet  
1<sup>st</sup> principle

- Allow water companies to provide non-potable supplies (S68/218)

- Charge for draining rain (S115)
- Enable sewerage undertakers to construct private rainwater drainage assets on private property (S114a)

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- [illegible]

# Storm overflows



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 Department  
for Environment,  
Food & Rural Affairs



...but they are non-statutory guidance...

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# The Rainwater Management Platform



The SuDS Manual

New context, drivers & policy

New knowledge & research

New technologies & best practice

Online, free to use




Rainwater Management platform



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# Conclusion



A national rainwater management strategy

Legislation


Regulation

Economic incentives

Education

Technical Guidance

“Simples”

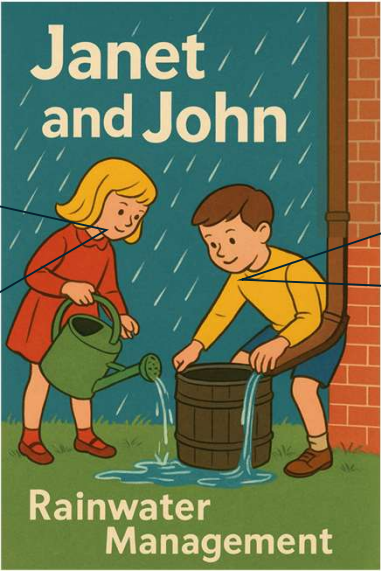


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My goodness  
me John, we've  
sorted water  
scarcity **and**  
storm overflows  
**and** reduced our  
carbon  
footprint!

Janet  
and John



Rainwater  
Management

Ah Janet, that's  
because you and  
me are good at  
**managing rain**  
**where it lands,**  
**Simples!**

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