

Press release

Durban-Paris, March 20, 2017

Wastewater

Veolia at the center of World Water Day

The United Nations “Wastewater: The Untapped Resource” report will be presented on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, in Durban (South Africa), during World Water Day. UNESCO considers Veolia is central to this event as it recycles 98% of the wastewater produced by this city on the east coast of South Africa.

Improving the local population’s access to drinking water and reusing the city’s wastewater for local industry is the virtuous solution for adapting to climate change that Veolia has implemented in Durban under a public-private partnership (PPP), the first such contract signed in South Africa.

After treatment, the wastewater is used by local industries in their production processes. This reduces the volume of water extracted from the environment and saves fresh water resources for drinking water production. As a result, an additional 40,000 m³ of drinking water is made available to the city’s residents each day, that is the equivalent of 11 Olympic swimming pools.

Wastewater, the theme for the 2017 World Water Day, is part of Veolia’s day-to-day business, since it serves 63 million people worldwide connected to a wastewater system, operates 3,303 wastewater treatment plants and recycles 371,500,000 m³ of wastewater.

“Do we need to remind people again that insufficient hygiene linked to a lack of sanitation is the leading cause of mortality and disease worldwide,” explains Antoine Frérot, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Veolia. “Around 1.8 billion people drink polluted water, the cause of 842,000 deaths each year. The United Nations’ decision to make wastewater treatment the theme of this year’s World Water Day on March 22 is excellent news. It is recognition by the international community of the public health and environmental protection issues associated with the vital need to collect and treat wastewater.”



In South Africa, in the municipality of eThekweni, Veolia has provided a solution that improves Durban residents' access to drinking water by reusing the city's wastewater in local industry.



3.6
MILLION
PEOPLE

SOUTH AFRICA'S
2nd
MOST
POPULOUS
URBAN
AREA

THE COUNTRY'S
2nd
MOST
IMPORTANT
INDUSTRIAL
CENTRE
AFTER
JOHANNESBURG

PRIOR TO 1999, THE CITY OF DURBAN FACED:

- HIGH WATER STRESS
- TENSIONS LINKED TO CONFLICTS OF USE AND TO WATER-INTENSIVE INDUSTRY
- RESOURCES POLLUTION

CONTRIBUTION TO A WATER GOVERNANCE TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS

DURBAN CITY

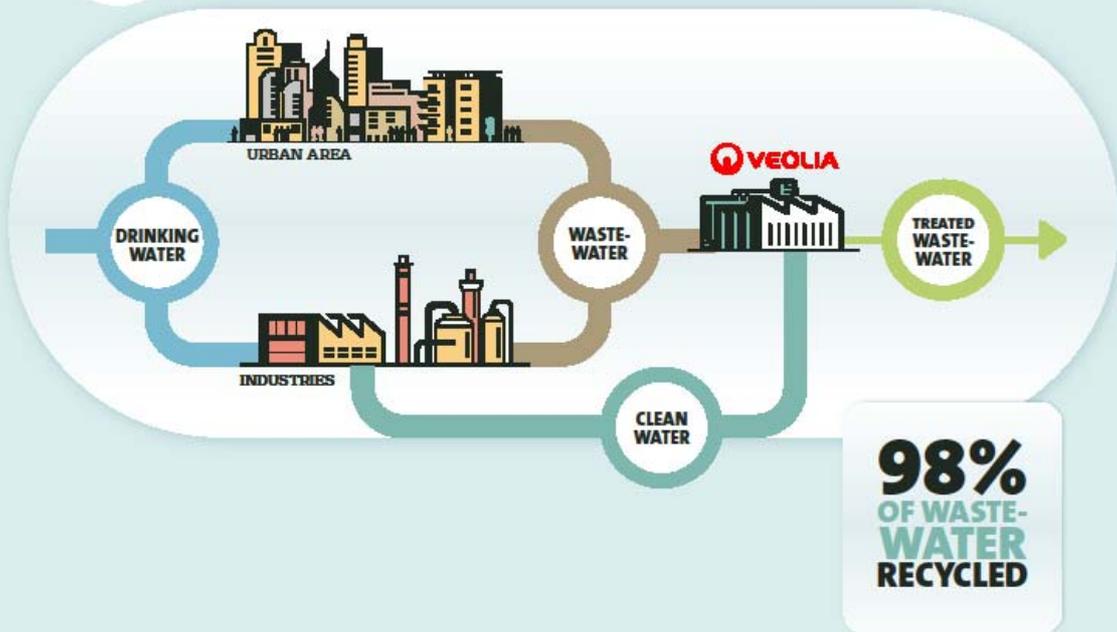


VEOLIA

Partnership initiated in 1999



A PRESERVED RESOURCE & PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT



98%
OF WASTE-
WATER
RECYCLED

For more information :

<http://www.letstalkaboutclimate.veolia.com/en/wastewater-treatment-water-stress-durban-south-africa>

However, World Water Day is also an opportunity to show how the second life of wastewater helps develop the circular economy and paves the way for new uses in our day-to-day lives:

- In the city of Abu Dhabi, 300,000 m³ of treated wastewater is recycled each day by Veolia for irrigation and watering
- In Marseille (France), the Cercle des Nageurs swimming pool's water temperature is maintained at 27 °C year-round by using heat recovered from wastewater with our Energido process
- In Milwaukee (United States), 50,000 metric tons per year of fertilizer with a high organic content is produced from wastewater treatment sludge
- In Tianjin (China), 30% of the Tianjin Soda plant's wastewater is reused in its cooling circuits
- Near Tarbes (France), treated wastewater will be used to irrigate cereal crops (corn and barley).

Finally, thanks to Veolia, the Namibian capital Windhoek has become the first city in the world to produce drinking water directly from the city's wastewater. The new plant provides 35% of the greater city's drinking water, supplying water to almost 300,000 people thanks to its daily treatment capacity of 21,000 m³ and its highly complex treatment process.

World Water Day this year therefore provides recognition of the role of sanitation not just for everyone's health, the conservation of natural environments and the resilience of cities, but also for the emergence of new resources that are crucial for development.

Veolia group is the global leader in optimized resource management. With over 163 000 employees worldwide, the Group designs and provides water, waste and energy management solutions that contribute to the sustainable development of communities and industries. Through its three complementary business activities, Veolia helps to develop access to resources, preserve available resources, and to replenish them.

In 2016, the Veolia group supplied 100 million people with drinking water and 61 million people with wastewater service, produced 54 million megawatt hours of energy and converted 30 million metric tons of waste into new materials and energy. Veolia Environnement (*listed on Paris Euronext: VIE*) recorded consolidated revenue of €24.39 billion in 2016. www.veolia.com

Contacts

Group Media Relations

Laurent Obadia - Sandrine Guendoul

Stéphane Galfré – Marie Bouvet

Tel.+33 (0)1 85 57 24 15

stephane.galfre@veolia.com