Water Treatment & Efficiency

Source Metadata

Field	Value
source	eu_taxonomy
source_version	EU Taxonomy 2026 revision
source_id	EU-WAT-001
eu_objective	water
sector	Water Treatment and Efficiency
mitigation	N
adaptation	N
last_checked	2026-05-26

EU Taxonomy Definition

Water treatment and efficiency activities under the EU Taxonomy cover the sustainable use and protection of water resources through treatment, reuse, and demand reduction. This includes construction and operation of urban wastewater treatment achieving high effluent standards, water reuse systems, industrial water efficiency improvements, desalination using renewable energy, water leakage reduction in distribution networks, and nature-based water treatment solutions (constructed wetlands, managed aquifer recharge). The Environmental Delegated Act, effective January 2024, established these criteria, with the 2026 revision updating thresholds to align with the revised Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

Technical Screening Criteria Summary

Urban wastewater treatment must achieve effluent quality meeting or exceeding the revised UWWTD standards, including nutrient removal (nitrogen below 10 mg/L, phosphorus below 1 mg/L for sensitive areas). Water reuse must comply with the EU Water Reuse Regulation minimum quality requirements for agricultural irrigation. Distribution network improvements must demonstrate leakage reduction targets (Infrastructure Leakage Index improvement). Desalination must be powered by at least 80% renewable energy and must include brine management plans. Industrial water efficiency must demonstrate at least 30% reduction in water withdrawal per unit of production against sector benchmarks. Nature-based solutions must demonstrate treatment equivalence with conventional systems.

Do No Significant Harm (DNSH)

Water activities must not harm mitigation (energy-efficient treatment processes, renewable energy use for desalination), adaptation (treatment infrastructure resilient to climate hazards), circular economy (sludge treated as resource — recovery of nutrients and energy), pollution (effluent must not contain micropollutants above defined thresholds, including PFAS under the 2026 revision), and biodiversity (no adverse impact on aquatic ecosystems, maintenance of environmental flows).

LATAM Relevance

Water access and quality remain critical challenges across LATAM — only 40% of wastewater in the region receives adequate treatment. EU-financed water infrastructure projects in Colombia, Peru, and Central America increasingly apply taxonomy criteria for green bond eligibility. The Bogotá River cleanup and Medellín's water system modernization are examples where EU-aligned water treatment standards influence project design and financing.

Colombia Green Finance Taxonomy Alignment

The TVC covers water treatment, supply, and efficiency under its environmental objectives. Alignment is partial — Colombia uses national water quality standards (Resolution 0631 of 2015 for discharge, Resolution 2115 of 2007 for drinking water) rather than EU UWWTD thresholds. The TVC does not include specific water reuse quality standards or desalination criteria. However, both frameworks prioritize leakage reduction and nature-based solutions.

Cleantech Taxonomy Crosswalk

Maps to Cleantech Taxonomy sector WW (Water & Wastewater) — nodes WW-TRE (treatment), WW-REU (reuse), WW-DIS (distribution), WW-DES (desalination), WW-NBS (nature-based solutions). Cross-references with ES (Energy) for energy recovery from wastewater and AF (AFOLU) for agricultural water reuse.

Revisión #2
Creado 2026-05-27 03:37:16 UTC por Gideon Blaauw
Actualizado 2026-05-27 03:48:42 UTC por Gideon Blaauw