Legislation is not the only route

Industry is increasingly taking the initiative out of self-interest, says Sarah Murray

At times, the world’s water and waste problems... the case for pricing has often been made, with little impact. But while the Pacific Garbage Patch – an oceanic... more than half of the 330m tonnes of waste produced annually, say analysts, is traded virtually – water is unlike emissions, which are traded virtually, water is heavy and difficult to transport over great distances. And access is closely tied to land ownership. When it comes to waste, pollution and its... recycling into carbon credits will become easier. And with industry highly... Incentives include... preservation of water and waste – business and the construction... As international leaders in every stage of waste management – from collection to recycling to conversion into energy – we’ve proved that cleaning up the world can generate healthy profits, Would we be better off if a new... environmental services, our net revenues have grown... to €3.633 billion in 2008 and €7.109 billion in 2008. That’s not rubbish.
Stream of solutions for husbanding liquid assets

**Resource management**
Mike Scott considers developments in treatment and supply

Despite its fundamental importance, water is often taken for granted. The biophysical infrastructure which we take for granted – dams, pumping stations, water treatment plants and associated structures – is the result of a fairly recent human achievement. And yet, in certain parts of the world, the lack of access to water is rapidly becoming a major human rights issue. For example, according to UNICEF, 2.5 billion people lack access to improved sanitation facilities, and 783 million people suffer from water-related diseases; the World Bank estimates that 1 in 5 people lack access to safe water.

The United Nations (UN) has declared 2013 the International Year of Water Cooperation and Water for Life. This year-long celebration is intended to highlight the importance of water for sustainable development and the urgent need for increased cooperation across the globe to ensure water security for all. The UN has set a goal of halving the number of people without access to safe drinking water by 2030.

In light of these challenges, there is a growing interest in developing and implementing innovative solutions for water provision. The goal is to ensure that everyone has access to safe, clean, and affordable water, while minimizing the environmental impact of water consumption. This can be achieved through a range of approaches, including water reuse, desalination, and rainwater harvesting. These solutions are being implemented in various parts of the world, with varying levels of success.

In some cases, the implementation of water conservation measures has resulted in significant savings. For example, in the United States, the city of Denver has implemented a comprehensive water conservation program that has resulted in a 21% reduction in water use since 2000. The city has implemented a range of strategies, including public education campaigns, water-efficient appliances, and water rate structures that encourage conservation.

In other cases, the challenges of water provision are more complex and require innovative solutions. For example, in many parts of the world, water scarcity is a major issue. In these cases, the implementation of desalination technology can be a viable solution. Desalination is the process of removing salt and other minerals from seawater, brackish water, or seawater. This can be achieved through a range of technologies, including reverse osmosis, nanofiltration, and multi-stage flash distillation. These technologies are being implemented in various parts of the world, with varying levels of success.

In conclusion, the challenges of water provision are complex and require innovative solutions. The implementation of water conservation measures and desalination technologies can be effective in reducing water consumption and providing a sustainable source of drinking water. However, the lack of access to safe water is a major human rights issue that requires urgent attention and action. The UN's International Year of Water Cooperation and Water for Life is an important opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of water for sustainable development and to encourage increased cooperation across the globe to ensure water security for all.
Let sustainability in at the ground floor

**Airblade dryer team takes a long-term view**

Dyson, the British manufacturer of domestic appliances, is known for reinventing the white goods (i.e. household appliances) without a bag, so as not to lose suction, and to sell at a high price. But the company is much more than a bagless innovator. In the US, the Airblade team are part of the Dyson company, which is one of the world's largest private companies. The team has set the design brief for the Dyson Airblade hand dryer, which was launched in 2002. The design brief was to create a hand dryer that required no water or electricity, and that was also easy to install.

The design team at Dyson first took a look at industrial and domestic hand dryers from the 1930s to the 1970s. They found that most of these dryers were designed to be used in public facilities, such as public restrooms. The design team decided to create a hand dryer that was easy to use and that would work in a variety of settings.

The Airblade was launched in 2002, and it has since been used in a variety of settings, including public restrooms, hospitals, and corporate offices.

**Offering a greener approach, if it makes harm less environmental**

The Airblade is designed to be both efficient and environmentally friendly. The design team at Dyson worked hard to ensure that the Airblade was energy-efficient and that it required as little water as possible.

The Airblade uses a combination of air and water to dry hands. The air is heated and dried, and then it is used to blow hot air against the hands. This process is repeated until the hands are dry.

The Airblade is designed to be easy to install and to use. It requires no maintenance and is easy to operate. The Airblade is also designed to be quiet, so it can be used in sensitive environments.

**Design**

Products should be designed so as to cut waste, reports Stephen Pritchard

**Water & Waste Management**

**Legislation**

Charles Batchelor on progress in national and regional regulations

**Local authorities are crucial in tackling a global problem**

Stephen Pritchard

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- Help cities and communities adapt to climate change and address future challenges
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Learn more about what regions are doing and how you can join in efforts to combat climate change visit: www.undp.org/washdev
Disposal programmes are in need of some fine-tuning

Electronics

Recycling schemes are being refined, writes Mike Scott

The directorate, which called for European countries to ensure that 8kg of waste per person was collected instead of the current 6kg, has led to some debates.

"I congratulate the directorate on its work in this area," he said.

He pointed out that the UK was well behind Europe in terms of recycling.

"We have a long way to go," he said.

The report also looked at ways to reduce waste, including through better design and use of materials.

"A raft of improvements need to be made to improve recycling rates," it said.

One of the key issues is the need for better labelling of products to inform consumers.

"Consumers need to be able to identify what is recyclable and what is not," the report said.

Another area where improvements could be made is in the collection of e-waste.

"We need to ensure that e-waste is collected and recycled in a responsible way," the report said.

The report also highlighted the importance of education and awareness campaigns to encourage people to recycle.

"We need to educate people about the benefits of recycling and the importance of doing it right," the report said.

The report concluded that more needs to be done to reduce waste and improve recycling rates.

"There is still a long way to go, but we need to keep pushing forward," it said.

There is a need to focus on reducing waste at the source, as well as improving recycling rates.

"We need to work together to make sure that we are making the most of our resources," the report said.

The report also highlighted the need for better data collection and monitoring to track progress.

"We need to be able to measure our progress and see where improvements can be made," the report said.

In conclusion, the report calls for a continued focus on waste reduction and recycling.

"We need to keep pushing forward and making sure that we are doing everything we can to reduce waste and improve recycling rates," it said.

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For more information on recycling, visit the European Commission's website on waste management.

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The report is available for download on the European Commission's website.