

Water

When a business grows, it is generally associated with increased water consumption, chemical residues in wastewater and medicinal products disposed of by patients. This may potentially cause environmental changes and affect aquatic ecosystems. Therefore, Lundbeck considers water usage and wastewater emissions as two of our significant environmental aspects.

Our approach

In many areas of the world, the scarcity of clean water presents significant challenges to public health and the environment. Approximately 60% of Lundbeck's water usage for production and research activities takes place in areas classified as low-medium-risk areas (World Resource Institute). The remaining 40% are placed in low-risk areas. Only a negligible part of Lundbeck's global operations, including suppliers, take place in classified medium-high-risk areas.

Nevertheless, Lundbeck wants to act responsibly and ensure that our water usage and wastewater emission does not negatively affect communities by diminishing the supply of clean water and degrading the water quality. Therefore, all research and production facilities at Lundbeck are required to quantify water consumption, minimise water usage when possible, and control the wastewater.

Chemical residues may cause a potential risk to the aquatic ecosystem, and we acknowledge the potential environmental risk posed by medicinal residues from manufacturing processes and patients. Lundbeck takes the matter seriously and monitors the environmental effects of the active pharmaceutical ingredients in our new medicinal products. Through biological and physical/chemical studies, we assess the ecological effect on various aquatic organisms and ecosystems as an integral part of our Environmental Risk Assessment process. The knowledge gained is applied to the design and manufacturing process, resulting in the least possible environmental impact. We believe that the work to improve our understanding of the fate and effect of pharmaceuticals in the environment may help to protect ecosystems. Through our membership of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), we support the Eco-Pharmaco-Stewardship initiative that considers the entire lifecycle of pharmaceuticals.

Our future challenges and opportunities with regard to water include:

- Improving our knowledge about active pharmaceutical ingredients in our wastewater when introducing new pharmaceuticals.
- Improving our mapping and analysing the differences in water consumption at our sites for production, research and development in order to identify possibilities for reducing our water consumption.
- Understanding water-related risks and opportunities in our operations.

- Supporting initiatives to improve data quality and minimising the presence and effects of pharmaceuticals in the environment. E.g., by participating in European and national industry networks to share experience.
- Developing and maintaining our environmental principles concerning water use and wastewater in supplier audits.
- Keeping an open and honest dialogue with our stakeholders, e.g. by reporting our performance in our Sustainability Report.