

The UK's Capability for Managing Leakage: Policy Goals and Technological Innovations

Leakage is regarded as a major issue on the UK's political agenda and the water industry is under continuous pressure to meet robust leakage targets set by the regulator, Ofwat*. Since 1994, the total amount of water lost through leakage in England and Wales has been reduced by around a third, but the level of around 3000 Ml/day has remained relatively static since 2000. Although % is not used as an indicator in UK, leakage is estimated to be equivalent to around 19% of the water put into the supply system. While some water companies have made substantial efforts to reduce leakage, Ofwat is encouraging them to go much further, with expectations that include a 15% reduction by 2025. The National Infrastructure Commission is going even further, suggesting the 2018-19 leakage volume to be halved by 2050. Mr Farley will discuss how UK water companies are addressing these targets, and assess the level of investment in technology innovation required to achieve them. [*Ofwat stands for Office of Water Services (UK government)]