

From: EIR
Sent: 28 July 2025 09:31
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 30 June 2025. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You requested:

1. How much water storage capacity has been created since privitisation
2. How much waste water treatment has been created since privitisation
3. How are the waste products from our CHP plants disposed of
4. How is the solid waste from our digesters disposed of

EIR Response: Provision of Requested Information

Item 1 is held by Anglian Water and has been provided below

It's slightly complicated as although we have drilled new boreholes and added new raw water storage, the majority were to replace water sources which needed to close (primarily for environmental reasons but some due to lack of use).

For example, we built Postwick WTW (plus new boreholes) in AMP5 but this was to replace our Strumpshaw saw which needed to close.

We built Hall Reservoir since privatisation (316,353 m³) but technically we also sold the following:

- Sold Hart Upper (75,000 m³), Hart lower (25000 m³), Crookfoot (1,068,000 m³) and Hurworth Burn (727,000 m³) raw water reservoirs to various private organisations and developers as these only supplied raw water to the industry around Hartlepool which has now ceased. We did not want to use them for supply of potable water as all our potable water was obtained from boreholes at the time.
- Sundon service reservoir (38,600 m³) was sold to Affinity Water in 2023 as they wanted to use it for treatment.
- Manton lane No. 1 (54,600 m³) was transferred to AWG Land Holdings Ltd. rather than refurbish the reservoir after Manton lane No. 2 was built in 2002. This transfer took place on 29 January 2008

Technically we have had 44 new groundwater licences issued since privatisation, but some of these will have been for water quality blends, replacement sources and resilience so doesn't mean we have extra water capacity.

Most of our investment has been on interconnectivity, e.g. Grafham resilience, new interconnectors (i.e. strategic pipeline).

We put over 1.2 billion litres of drinking water in supply every day in 2024/25, which is the same amount we put into supply 30 years ago despite a 43% increase in population.

Item 2 is not held by Anglian Water.

Item 3 is held by Anglian Water, and has been provided below

The Digesters produce a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide (ca. 60:40% split) as a result of anaerobic digestion of some of the organic matter present in the sewage sludge fed to them. These bacteria do not produce carbon monoxide in any appreciable quantity, which is normally a product of incomplete combustion not fermentation. Once collected the gas mixture is used in combined heat and power engines to produce green electricity as an accepted form of renewable energy. Heat is used for the anaerobic digestion and pre-digestion heating and electricity for the sludge treatment centre, associated water recycling centre and in some cases in part exported to the national grid. The measurement, utilisation and export (where applicable) of green electricity is carried out under agreements with Ofgem. The CHP engines are designed to burn to complete oxidation therefore the carbon dioxide is passed through unchanged but the methane is fully converted to carbon dioxide. Short-cycle carbon dioxide is then released to atmosphere, but is fully accounted for in our CEMAS accredited carbon counted audited annually by Achilles. Carbon monoxide does not form part of this system for the aforementioned reasons to any extent at all. If we are unable to utilise gas through CHP engines, we will use the gas in boilers - which may displace some fossil fuel use, depending on the site and in emergencies will be flared through a waste gas burner to again only release fully oxidised as carbon dioxide.

Item 4 is held by Anglian Water, and has been provided below

Residual solids are collected and spun in large scale dewatering centrifuges to produce a high-quality stabilised material known as treated biosolids and classified by DEFRA as an 'organic manure' in the same way as farm manures. However, it should be noted that Biosolids are generally considered more stable than other 'organic manures' due to complexation of nutrients with residual and relatively stable organic material. This is recycled to farm land under the Sludge Use in Agriculture Regulations 1989, other environmental legislation and code of practice guidelines. This process is overseen by the Environment Agency. The biosolids provide recycled phosphate and nitrogen products for crop fertility as well as smaller amounts of vital elements such as sulphur and zinc. Their residual organic material ca. 50% sequesters carbon into the soil where it can improve water retention, reduce erosion and somewhat replace depleted carbon which most UK agricultural soils are lacking.

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Legal Director, Anglian Water Services, Lancaster House, Lancaster Way, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon PE29 6XU

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this email, please contact us via EIR@anglianwater.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

EIR Team

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