

World Water Day 2022

„Groundwater: Making the invisible visible“

Decisively counter the delusion of water abundance in Germany.

Not only the experts have finally realized, that something is wrong with the water balance in Germany. Last week, the public television devoted prime time to the water topic and drew attention to the falling groundwater levels. We see evidence on this everywhere. The forests have not been doing well for a long time, nor have our city trees and vegetation. Drought monitoring currently shows severe to extreme drought in many places at 1.80 m depth. We are losing our underground "treasure".

Strategy - wrong! The measures for solving the problem may be very different, depending on which lobby is presenting them. More long-distance water pipelines and larger networks is one answer from the water supplier. But can this be the sole solution? Water will merely be distributed differently. The proposed measures of the National Water Strategy also show little potential for innovation.

The concept of sustainability is however different. An overall water concept is needed and this is obviously available, since nature demonstrates this in several ways. For example, collect and retain rainwater where it accumulates and not discharge into the sewer, use rainwater and recycled water in buildings for applications that do not require a drinking water quality. The strived "green cities" of the future will require even more water to face the impacts of climate and demographic changes.

Even though the energy crisis is back into the main focus due to the current events, the threatening water crisis must not be forgotten. This is now more important than ever and managing rainwater and recycled water (service water) is a key component. However, the integration of decentralised systems into existing structures should mean more than just substituting drinking water. At the same time, it is a precautionary measure, through water storage, retention and recycling against the increasingly hydrological extremes our planet is now experiencing. It is therefore the often "invisible" systems of the decentralised water infrastructure that make a decisive contribution to the sustainable use of water resources and ultimately to the protection of our groundwater.

More information: Rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling against climate change: <https://www.youtube.com/user/Regenwasserverband/playlists>

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fbr - Federal Association for Rainwater and Water Reuse

<https://www.fbr.de/>



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