

WBCSD Pledge for Access to Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene at the Workplace

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation is a human right and part of core Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) defined by the United Nations – **yet more than 1.8 billion people²² depend on unsafe drinking water and an estimated 4.1 billion²³ don't have access to adequate sanitation.**²⁴ Addressing this vital human and socio-economic development issue is a key condition to achieving WBCSD's Vision 2050 of “9 billion people living well within the limits of the planet.”

Many businesses have operations, employees, contractors and customers in regions lacking safe water and sanitation. The economic, social and health consequences of this situation cause sickness and death, impair productivity, and restrict markets for some products and services.²⁵

Global businesses can lead the way to significantly increase the number of people who have access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene by providing adequate access at their own premises, with particular attention to locations at risk.

Leadership in access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene provides opportunities to improve employee health, satisfaction and productivity. It also represents a strong call from the business community for other stakeholders to act and solve this unacceptable crisis.

By signing this Pledge, companies commit to implementing access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene at the workplace at an appropriate level of standard for all employees in all premises under direct control within three years.

They also commit to championing such access among peers within their industry.



wbcds water

Visit www.wbcds.org/work-program/sector-projects/water/WASHatworkplace.aspx to sign the pledge and see existing company commitments to it.

- 1 Onda, K., J. LoBuglio, J. Bartram, "Global Access to Safe Water: Accounting for Water Quality and the Resulting Impact on MDG Progress," International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 9, 880-894, 2012. (<http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/9/3/880>)
- 2 "Sanitation: a global estimate of sewerage connections without treatment and the resulting impact on MDG progress," Environmental Science and Technology, January 2013.
- 3 The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation states that over 780 million people do not have access to safe drinking water and 2.5 billion lack access to adequate sanitation - "Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation: 2012 Update," 2012. (http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/JMP-report-2012-en.pdf). The lower numbers utilized here are still considered to be underestimated.
- 4 The WHO estimates that the global benefits of achieving the MDG regarding improved access to water and sanitation are USD 4.3 per dollar invested.