

Royal Society of Chemistry response to the Market Transformation Programme consultation on rainwater and grey water re-use

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Market Transformation Programme consultation on Rainwater and grey water re-use.

The RSC is the largest organisation in Europe for advancing the chemical sciences. Supported by a network of 43,000 members worldwide and an internationally acclaimed publishing business, our activities span education and training, conferences and science policy, and the promotion of the chemical sciences to the public.

This document represents the views of the RSC. The RSC's Royal Charter obliges it to serve the public interest by acting in an independent advisory capacity, and the RSC is happy for this submission to be put into the public domain.

The evidence submitted arises from the expertise of the members of the RSC Water Science Forum. The members of this forum are currently drafting a report on "Chemical science priorities for sustainable water". The draft recommendations from this report are the basis for the RSC response.

For further information, please contact Dr Jeff Hardy, Environment, Sustainability and Energy Manager (Tel: 020 7440 3395, Email: hardyj@rsc.org)

RSC Response:

The RSC agrees with the main findings of the Market Transformation Programme report. It is the view of the RSC that the lack of standards is inhibiting the use of grey water and rain water.

In the draft RSC report, two recommendations relevant to the MTP consultation state that:

- Chemical sciences should be used to pursue the introduction of a universal statutory standard for sub-potable water.
- Chemical sciences should be used to investigate in detail overseas experience of "fit and forget" formulations and dosing systems for disinfection of rain water and grey water and their appropriateness for use in the UK.

Appropriate standards will allow greater use of grey water and rain water and result in savings in mains water consumption and the energy and materials consumed during mains water treatment. Considering the water shortages in the South East of England in 2006 this would seem a sensible approach to reducing mains water demand.