



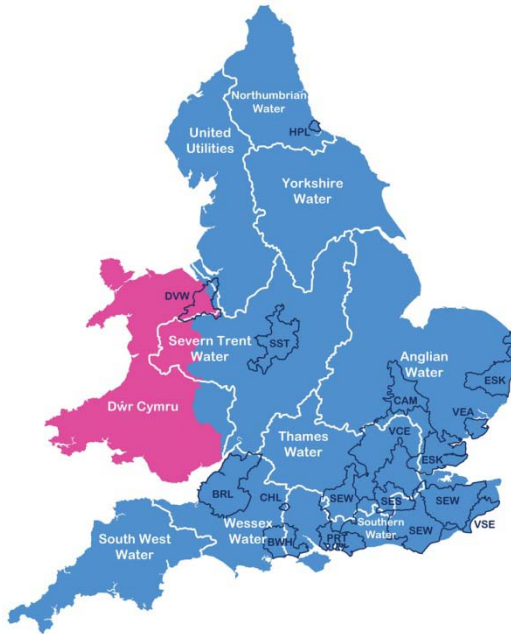
Valuing water – the new vision for a  
resource-efficient Europe

David Hackett, European Affairs Manager  
Budapest, 24 March 2011

# Who we are and what independent regulation has delivered



# Overview of the sectors



## England and Wales

21 regional monopoly companies

Independent economic regulation and separate quality regulators

## Other European Member States

Mainly small, local municipal authorities

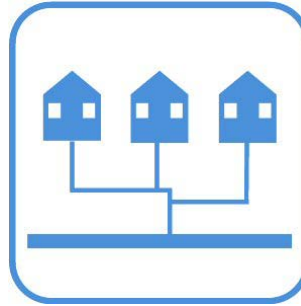
Controlled by local or central government

Limited number of private companies paid to run (but do not own) local infrastructure

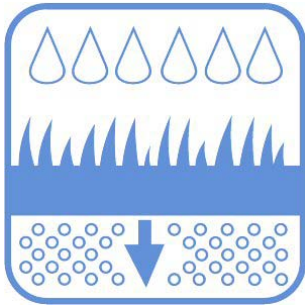
# Future challenges in England and Wales



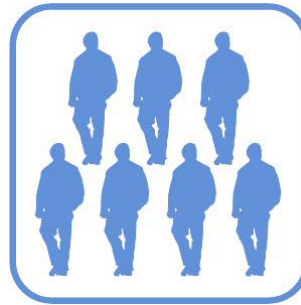
Changing climate could bring more droughts and floods



Need resilient infrastructure – UK network is 335,000 km long, much of which is ageing



Building on flood plains increases burden on drainage systems



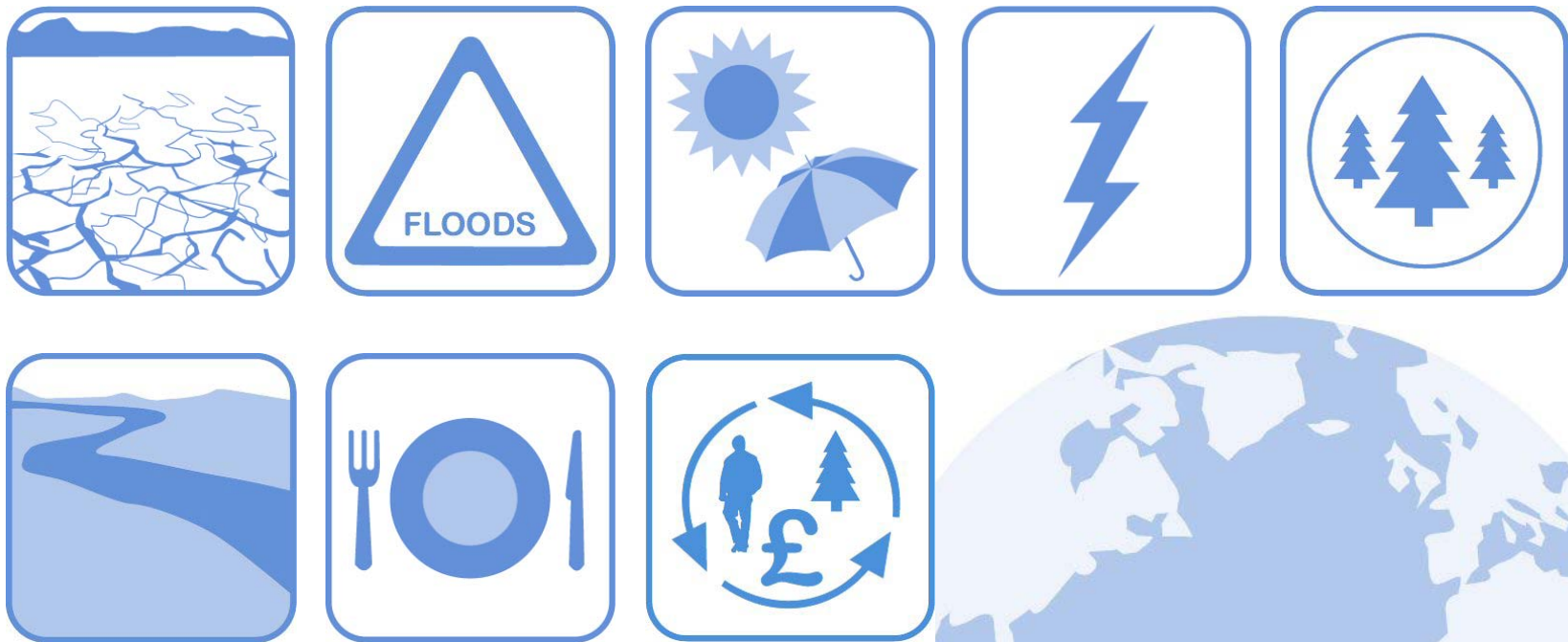
Growing UK population – predicted to reach 71 million by 2031



Rise in single households, which use more water. Need to be more water efficient

**Water is the new oil  
– Goldman Sachs**

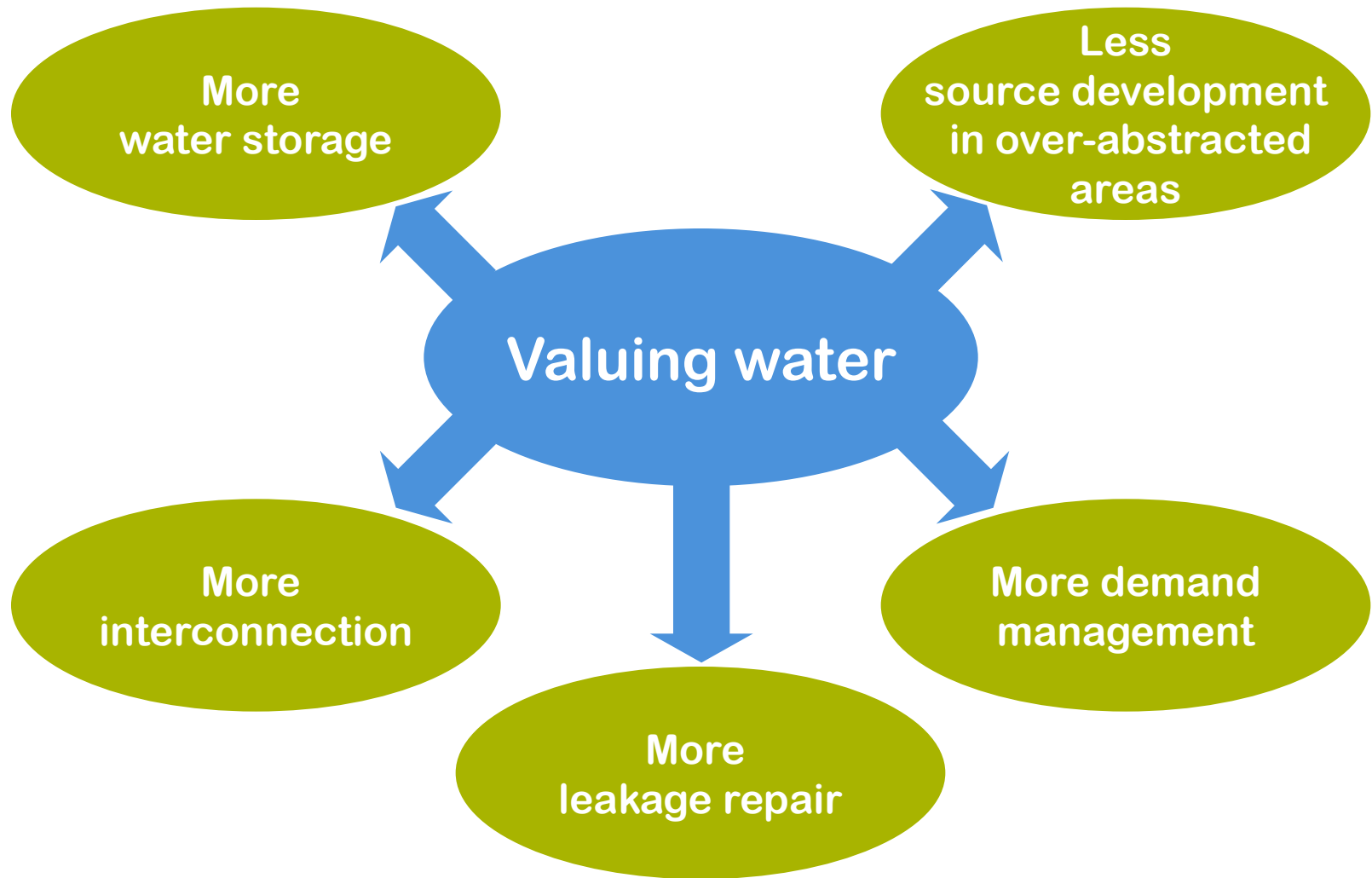
# Future challenges – Europe



## EU challenges

Droughts | Floods | Climate change | Energy | Biodiversity  
Water and air quality | Greening the CAP | Sustainable resource use  
Economic recovery and sustainable development

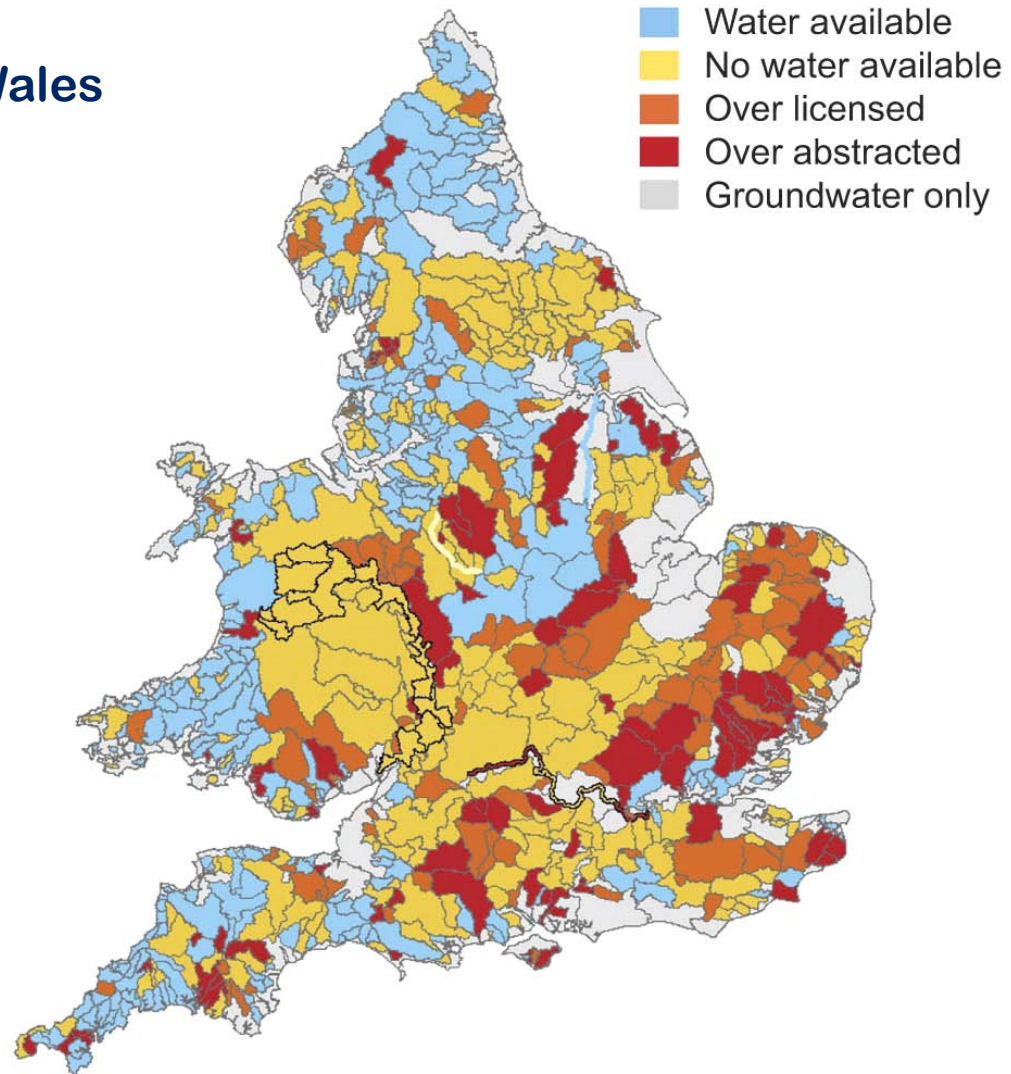
# Addressing the challenges





# Availability

**Water scarcity varies  
across England and Wales**



© Environment Agency 2008

## Benefits of our approach



Encouraging sustainable, local, decision-making

Enabling flexible, risk-based, efficient response to uncertainty



# Conclusion

