

# LafargeHolcim Approach to Measuring Positive Impact on Water Management

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LafargeHolcim launched its sustainable development strategy, The 2030 Plan, in 2016 with one overarching objective – generate one third of net sales from more sustainable products and solutions. The plan is anchored on 4 key pillars: climate, circular economy, water and nature, and quality of life of communities and employees.

LafargeHolcim commitment on Water comprises two parts: 1) To improve water efficiency by 30% in cement by 2030; and 2) To achieve positive water index in water-scarce areas where LafargeHolcim operates by 2030. The latter aims to create a more efficient, equitable, and sustainable water resources management in water-stressed areas by “returning back more water to the community and nature than LafargeHolcim consumes” and promote a sustainable use of water resources, through community and watershed projects.

A “water scarce” area is determined by employing the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Global Water Tool: any area with an annual total renewable supply per person of less than 1,000 cubic meters is classified as water scarce. Using a methodology reviewed by the Swiss Development Agency, the Positive Water Index for each site will be assessed through a Water Credit/ Water Debit approach. This approach will consider both quantitative and qualitative dimensions. Building on previous experiences, different categories of projects enhancing water sustainability will be deployed. These include:

1. watershed protection and restoration: recharge of natural water sources; construction of check dams to intercept run-offs; and reforestation
2. water access and sanitation: improvement of access to safe water through well; construction and development of sanitation solutions
3. water for productive use: use of treated wastewater for water-efficient irrigation and agricultural practices

The LafargeHolcim WPIM methodology was successfully piloted on two projects, including groundwater recharge and efficient agriculture by Ambuja Cement Ltd, in India.