



## Review of the Water Policy 2022

April 28, 2023 | Andri Bryner

Topics: Drinking Water | Wastewater | Biodiversity | Ecosystems | Pollutants | Water & Development | Society | Climate Change & Energy

**The hot summer of 2022 made water supply security a political issue in the Federal Parliament. Other issues included the implementation deficit in the designation of groundwater protection zones, hardly degradable "perpetual" chemicals and the growing pressure to produce more electricity from hydropower.**

In 2022, the persistently high temperatures and drought in June to August will not only lead to low water levels, excessively warm waters and a high risk of forest fires, but also to parliamentary proposals for savings or optimised use of water resources. The focus on improved groundwater protection can be traced back to the two popular initiatives of 2021, the increased concentrations of degradation products of the banned pesticide chlorothalonil and the report of the National Council's Business Audit Commission on inadequate enforcement.



Large-scale revitalisation projects take time to implement. The cantons of Valais and Vaud are increasing flood protection as part of the third correction of the Rhône and are also planning an ecological upgrade of the Rhône delta in Lake Geneva (swisstopo, rotated 180 degrees, left; visualisation 3e correction du Rhône, right).

### **Conflicting goals are becoming very apparent**

In the case of forever chemicals, two triggers can be identified: the new findings on their toxicity and the high presence of the topic in the media. Finally, the concern about an impending (winter) electricity shortfall is leading to great pressure to further expand Swiss hydropower. It is obvious that this accentuates the conflicting goals of watercourse and landscape protection.

The article just published in the magazine Aqua&Gas gives - for the sixth time in a row - a rough overview of political events and debates on the topic of water and water bodies in 2022. In the [online version](#) of the article, the initiatives, reports and judgements are directly linked.

Cover picture: The dry summer of 2022 led to unconventional solutions - such as supplying water to an alp near Grandvillard/FR with army helicopters.  
(Picture: DDPS, Jonas Kambli)

### **Original publication**

Bryner, A.; Fischer, M.; Vollenweider, S. (2023) Wasserpolitischer Jahresrückblick 2022, *Aqua & Gas*, 103(5), 70-80, [Institutional Repository](#)

[Online Version](#) with direct links.

## Related Links

Water policy annual review

## Contact



**Stefan Vollenweider**

Guest Researcher, Group: Cirus

Tel. +41 58 765 5427

[stefan.vollenweider@eawag.ch](mailto:stefan.vollenweider@eawag.ch)



**Manuel Fischer**

Department Head & Group Leader, Group: PEGO

Tel. +41 58 765 5676

[manuel.fischer@eawag.ch](mailto:manuel.fischer@eawag.ch)



**Andri Bryner**

Media officer

Tel. +41 58 765 5104

[andri.bryner@eawag.ch](mailto:andri.bryner@eawag.ch)

<https://www.eawag.ch/en/info/portal/news/news-archive/archive-detail/review-of-the-water-policy-2022>