



# Water Footprint

Water insecurity and water scarcity affect billions of people around the world.

The impact is felt across our value chain, from the sources of our fiber to the facilities that create our products to the communities where our employees and consumers live.

This increasing impact on our communities and our planet led us to elevate the issue's importance in Kimberly-Clark's 2030 sustainability strategy.





- Plastics footprint
- Forests footprint
- Carbon footprint
- Water footprint**

# Ensuring Access to Fresh Water for All

As we look to 2030, relentlessly pursuing short-term milestones and making meaningful improvements in our own operations, in our surrounding communities, and in our supply chain will help us achieve our long-term aspirations for sustainable water use.

Although a global challenge, addressing water stress is inherently a local issue. Our strategy maximizes the benefit we can drive by targeting the majority of our efforts towards regions at greatest risk and customizing our approach and ambition for the specific needs of each water basin.

**We bring a holistic approach that considers not just our facilities but looks to create greater water security for the entire water basin.**

We developed a methodology that engages holistic, private-public groups composed of local government, NGOs, and business to review scientific assessments of the watershed's challenges, share best practices and approaches, and implement solutions that drive economic, social, and environmental value at the community and watershed level.

We recognize the need for strong water stewardship practices within our supply chain and are helping suppliers apply the methodology we've developed for our own operations to their facilities. By working with suppliers to set and achieve sustainable water use targets for their facilities in water-stressed regions, we can magnify the impact of our efforts.

**Reduce our water footprint by 50% in water stressed regions by creating meaningful improvements in our supply chain and the surrounding communities, ensuring ongoing access to fresh water for all**

By 2030, we intend to:



Create positive and measurable watershed impact in **30** watersheds/water basins

Collaborate with key supplier partners to amplify our impact in water-stressed regions around the world.

Achieve responsible/efficient water use at all Kimberly-Clark manufacturing facilities.



## Driving Sustainable Water Use at Our Sites

Achieving sustainable water use within our operations begins by ensuring that all our sites meet compliance with relevant local permitting and with Kimberly-Clark's global water performance, waste-water performance and environmental performance standards.

We are working to understand what sustainable water use looks like in water-stressed regions, expanding our work beyond the twelve manufacturing sites identified in our 2022 strategy to 30 locations currently and or projected to be in water scarce regions.

**Our process includes a scientific watershed analysis for each location that factors in water availability, biodiversity considerations, socio-economic trends and the regulatory landscape.**

Based on this assessment, we establish customized sustainable water use targets.

Our facilities then mobilize to implement best practices for reducing, reusing and recycling water in pursuit of our sustainable water use targets.

By taking what we've learned from our initial focus on tissue mills, we can now apply this process to all water-stressed manufacturing locations.

To achieve our 2030 goal, we will ensure that all qualifying facilities achieve their individual sustainable water use targets, thus creating meaningful improvements in the surrounding communities and ensuring ongoing access to fresh water for all.





# 2019 Performance

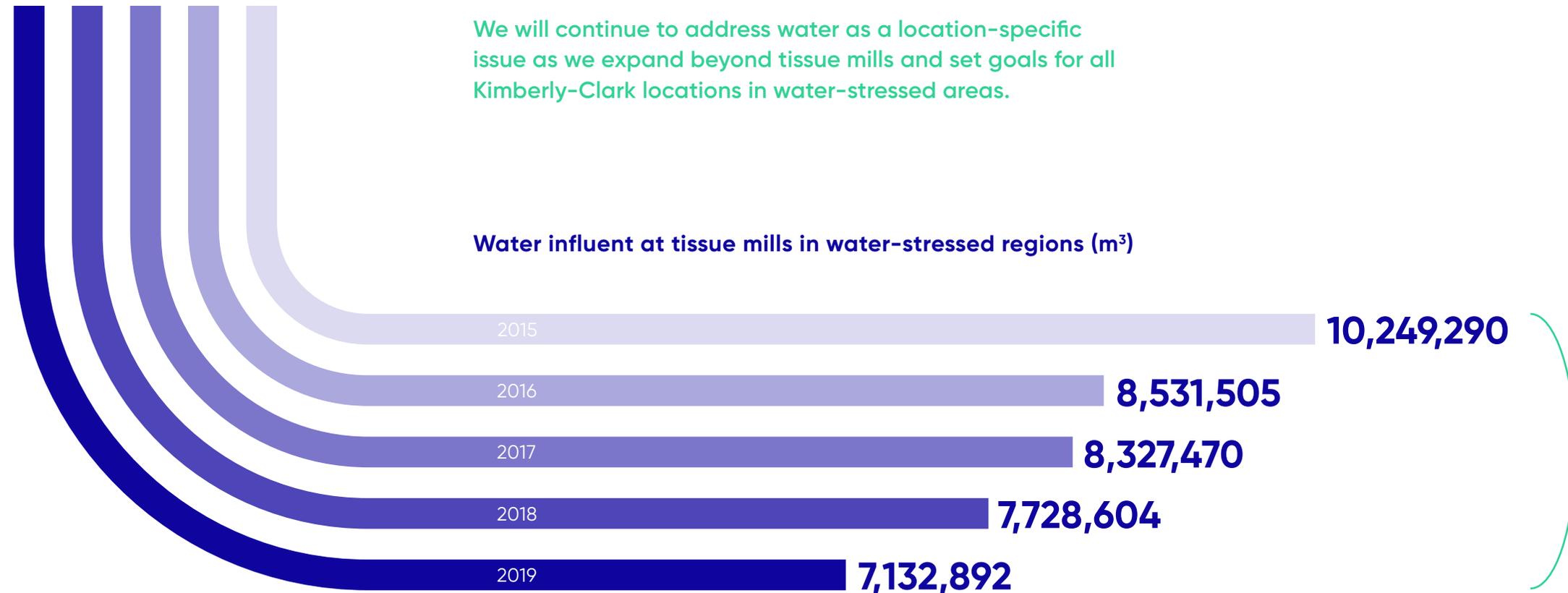
Water is an essential input to our tissue manufacturing process, so the majority of our initial water-responsibility efforts have been focused on twelve Kimberly-Clark tissue mills identified as operating in water-stressed areas.

In 2019 we enacted sustainable water-use plans for all twelve mills. Four of the twelve have now achieved their sustainable water-use target, and our goal is for the remainder to meet their targets by 2022.

Last year, this group of mills achieved an 8.5% reduction in water use compared to 2018. In the years since 2015, they have reduced absolute water use by 28.9%.

We will continue to address water as a location-specific issue as we expand beyond tissue mills and set goals for all Kimberly-Clark locations in water-stressed areas.

Water influent at tissue mills in water-stressed regions (m<sup>3</sup>)



**28.9%**  
reduction



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# WaterLOUPE

Kimberly-Clark takes a local approach to water, because truly understanding water risks in the community better enables us to create positive solutions. We host water scarcity workshops to bring different stakeholders to the table to discuss water risks and use tools like WaterLOUPE, which we developed with Dutch research group Deltares, to generate actionable insights.

**The WaterLOUPE tool allows us to understand who is most exposed to water risk, who is most vulnerable, and what is the hazard.**

The information provided by the tool enables us to identify risks and bring together a holistic group of local businesses, government, and NGOs in a watershed to determine community-based solutions.



Jim Bath, Director of Environmental Sustainability, in front of the Theewaterskloof Dam, which provides water to the city of Cape Town, South Africa.

In February 2019, Kimberly-Clark and Deltares gathered over 30 individuals from local and municipal government, local businesses, and NGOs at our Epping mill, just outside of Cape Town, South Africa, for a water scarcity workshop. The workshop engaged stakeholders to look at risks for the entire watershed and align on objectives. Using the data from

the workshop, a WaterLOUPE water scarcity risk dashboard was created and utilized to scientifically model potential solutions.

We reconvened in Cape Town in August for a second session to evaluate the data we received at the first WaterLOUPE workshop and create collective action towards solutions.

This work in Cape Town has become a model for the rest of the business. Instead of just focusing on reducing water at the facility, local teams in water-stressed areas are using this holistic, analytics-enabled approach to understand water risk across their entire watershed and find solutions that work for all stakeholders over the long term.