



Sizewell C - clean electricity and a clear plan for water

As well as lowering carbon emissions, Sizewell C will help to develop new water supplies for East Suffolk.

Building a more resilient water system

East Anglia is one of the driest regions in the country and has been classified by the Environment Agency as a Serious Water Stressed Area. Climate change and a growing population mean water supplies are likely to come under greater strain in future unless action is taken.

The local water companies have put forward plans to make sure all water users, including Sizewell C, have the long-term supply they needⁱ. While our project will be a large development, the new power station won't reduce water supplies to East Suffolk homes and businesses. Instead, we will help to increase water availability and help build a more resilient water network for the region.

Innovation in construction

A new permanent water supply for the power station will be completed in the early 2030s. Until then, the water needed for construction will come from a temporary desalination plant on the main development site.ⁱⁱ It will be one of the first things we build and will be located away from Sizewell Marshes SSSI and Sizewell beach.

The demand for water will vary but the desalination plant has the capacity to supply all the water we need, even at peak levels of construction. We plan to re-use up to 70% of our water to minimise demand. Any surplus desalinated water could be stored and used by other local businesses.

Seawater desalination is a tried and tested system which supplies drinking water to millions of people in drier parts of the world. By building a plant at Sizewell C, we will gain new skills in a technology which is going to be used more widely in the UK.

A long-term water benefit

Once it is operating, the power station will use less than 0.1% of the total water forecast to be needed in the East of Englandⁱⁱⁱ while generating low carbon electricity for around 6 million homes. It is one of hundreds of East Suffolk businesses which will need a new permanent water supply in the 2030s.

To accommodate the overall increase in demand in the region, the local water companies will build either a water recycling plant in Lowestoft or a new reservoir in North Suffolk. Once the new source (or combination of sources) is chosen, Sizewell C will help to pay for a mains pipeline to bring the water to the Leiston area.

The new mains pipeline will supply not just the power station but the wider community as well. As a result, by the mid-2030s the area around Sizewell C is expected to have more water than it needs.

Not only will our project reduce carbon emissions, but we will also help to address the threat of water shortage caused by global warming. An improved water supply is one of the many ways Sizewell C will bring change for the better to the East of England.

ⁱ Water companies Northumbrian Water Ltd and Anglian Water have put forward Water Resource Management Plans which are being considered by Ofwat.

ⁱⁱ In the earliest days of construction, water will be tankered to the construction site from outside the local area, although other options are under active consideration. Peak demand will be 4m litres per day.

ⁱⁱⁱ Overall demand in operation is expected to be 2.2m litres of potable-grade water per day. Independent estimates suggest East of England demand will reach 2,441m litres per day by 2050.