



Sarah Bentley, CEO
Thames Water

19 March 2021

Via e-mail: sarah.bentley@thameswater.co.uk

Dear Ms Bentley,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to urge you to offset some of the environmental impact caused by Thames Water – including several raw sewage pollution incidents – by going vegan for World Water Day (22 March) and encouraging your staff to do the same.

While you can't undo the damage done to the River Thames – resulting in the deaths of over 1,000 fish – by eating vegan, you would reduce your contribution to other forms of water degradation. Consider that the United Nations has called animal agriculture “probably the largest sectoral source of water pollution”, contributing to human health issues, ocean “dead zones”, and increased antibiotic resistance.

An Environment Agency survey has shown that 95% of dairy farms in one catchment area failed to meet water-protection standards and that half of those were polluting a local river during inspection. And following manure and urine run-off from nearby egg farms into the River Wye, locals claim it's turning into “pea soup”. Or, perhaps, *pee* soup. Either way, it's not fresh.

Encouraging your employees to try vegan eating – including by serving vegan food in any office canteens that are currently open – would save water. The Water Footprint Network estimates that it takes 15,415 litres of water to produce 1 kilogram of beef but just 1,644 litres to grow 1 kilogram of wheat. If every one of your 9,000 employees went vegan for the day, it would save over 12 million litres of water – enough to fill five Olympic-size swimming pools!

In addition, eating plant-based foods helps combat climate change; can reduce the risk of suffering from cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and other ailments; and is, of course, kind to animals. Sir David Attenborough has said, “We must change our diet. The planet can't support billions of meat-eaters.” The time for action is now.

We'd be happy to send you copies of PETA's free vegan starter kit and work with you to devise healthy meal plans that will make a *splash* this World Water Day. Could I ask for a few minutes of your time to discuss this idea?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Carys Bennett
Senior Corporate Liaison, PETA UK

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