

**IAWR**

Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft der
Wasserwerke im Rheineinzugsgebiet

International Association of
Waterworks in the Rhine catchment area

The Guiding Principles of the IAWR

The guiding principles of the IAWR define the identity the IAWR wants to present to other partners, stakeholders and the general public.

At the same time they define the internal self-identity of the IAWR.

1. The waterworks that are members of the IAWR represent the expectation of high quality drinking water of 30 million people.
2. Water is not a commodity, but a valuable asset we have inherited and that each generation has a duty to preserve.
3. The waterworks united in the IAWR supply the most important daily provision of all: clean water is a prerequisite for good health and a high standard of living. When it comes to the use of groundwater and surface water, the provision of drinking water should be privileged above all other uses.
4. The waterworks belonging to the IAWR regard themselves as guardians of water quality. The reliable provision of drinking water depends on the sustainable protection of the related resources.
5. The protection of water purity must be based on the “polluter pays” principle. Waterworks are not repair companies and cannot be expected to undo the harm done by others.
6. The main objective of the protection of water bodies must be the achievement and maintenance of a water quality that allows drinking water to be produced using natural treatment methods only.
7. The IAWR supports the strengthening of the biological self-purification processes in water bodies and river systems. This is the only way to preserve the conditions necessary for the production of drinking water through natural treatment processes.
8. The IAWR defends the precautionary principle in water management. Short-term economic needs must not be put before water quality.
9. The maintenance of long-term water quality requires adequate monitoring systems that are constantly updated to reflect scientific progress.

Adopted as the guiding principles of the IAWR by the IAWR-PR Committee on 25 March 2010 in Zürich and approved by the Board on 22 April, 2010 in Freiburg.