



ALLIANCE FOR  
WATER STEWARDSHIP

## **WEBINAR**

**AWS STANDARD V3.0: GLOBAL  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2024**

# AWS TEAM



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# AGENDA

| TOPIC   | TIME       |
|---|------------|
| Welcome, Introductions, Agenda                | 5 minutes  |
| Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) Standard | 5 minutes  |
| AWS Standard Review and Revision Process      | 10 minutes |
| Draft AWS Standard V3.0 – Summary of Changes  | 15 minutes |
| Global Public Consultation                    | 5 minutes  |
| Questions & Answers                           | 15 minutes |
| Next Steps                                    | 5 minutes  |



## VISION

**A water secure world that enables people, cultures, business and nature to prosper now and in the future.**

## MISSION

**We ignite and nurture global and local leadership in credible water stewardship that recognises and secures the social, cultural, environmental and economic value of water.**

# AWS MEMBERS

| CSOs   | BUSINESS   | PUBLIC SECTOR   | STANDARDS  |
|--|--|---|--|
|  <p>PACIFIC INSTITUTE</p> <p>WWF</p> <p>The Nature Conservancy</p> <p>The Rivers Trust</p> <p>WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE</p> <p>Global Water Partnership</p> <p>wrap</p> <p>CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL</p> <p>IWA the international water association</p> <p>WaterAid</p> <p>AGWA Alliance for Global Water Adaptation alliance4water.org</p> |  <p>Apple</p> <p>SUNTORY</p> <p>Dole</p> <p>Unilever</p> <p>Audi</p> <p>Coca-Cola</p> <p>H&amp;M Group</p> <p>AstraZeneca</p> <p>General Mills</p> <p>Tetra Pak</p> <p>CISCO</p> <p>Nestlé</p> <p>MARS</p> <p>DIAGEO</p> <p>TOYOTA</p> <p>EDEKA</p> <p>PEPSICO</p> <p>ECOLAB</p> <p>L'ORÉAL</p> <p>BESTSELLER</p> |  <p>Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft<br/>Confédération suisse<br/>Confederazione Svizzera<br/>Confederaziun svizra</p> <p>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC</p> <p>IWM<br/>International Water Management Institute</p> <p>KfW DEG</p> <p>giz</p> <p>Water for Food<br/>DAUGHERTY GLOBAL INSTITUTE<br/>at the University of Nebraska</p> |  <p>BCI Better Cotton Initiative</p> <p>MEMBER TextileExchange<br/>Creating Material Change</p> <p>BON SUCRO<br/>The global sugarcane platform</p> <p>GLOBAL G.A.P.<br/>Map for Safe and Sustainable Agriculture</p> <p>Sustainable Rice Platform</p> <p>SRP</p> |

# THE AWS STANDARD



## AN ACCESSIBLE 'HOW TO' FRAMEWORK FOR SITES TO IMPLEMENT WATER STEWARDSHIP

THE AWS STANDARD FRAMEWORK IS BUILT AROUND FIVE STEPS:

1. GATHER AND UNDERSTAND
2. COMMIT AND PLAN
3. IMPLEMENT
4. EVALUATE
5. COMMUNICATE AND DISCLOSE

Download the  
AWS Standard V2.0  
at [a4ws.org](http://a4ws.org)



THE STANDARD IS INTENDED TO ACHIEVE FIVE MAIN OUTCOMES:

- GOOD WATER GOVERNANCE
- SUSTAINABLE WATER BALANCE
- GOOD WATER QUALITY STATUS
- IMPORTANT WATER-RELATED AREAS
- SAFE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE FOR ALL (WASH)

# AWS STANDARD REVIEW & REVISION

## OVERVIEW

### Aims

AWS is currently undertaking a review and revision of the AWS Standard V2.0, to increase the practicality, utility and value of Version 3.0:

- **Practicality** – Streamlining the AWS Standard for companies to implement cost-effectively at scale.
- **Utility** – Supporting alignment with wider sustainability agendas and priorities.
- **Value** – Strengthening integration with corporate-level reporting.

### Governance and decision-making

- AWS Technical Committee has overall responsibility.
- AWS Members to vote on AWS Standard V3.0.



# AWS STANDARD REVISION TIMELINE

Public consultation stages in green.



| Step                       | Jan 24     | Feb 24     | Mar 24     | Apr 24     | May 24     | Jun 24     | Jul 24     | Aug 24     | Sep 24     | Oct 24     | Nov 24     | Dec 24     | Jan 25     | Feb 25     | Mar 25     | Apr 25     | May 25     | Jun 25     | Jul 25     | Aug 25     | Sep 25     |            |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| First draft of V3.0        | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray |            |
| First public consultation  | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Green      | Green      | Green      | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray |            |
| Second draft of V3.0       | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray |            |
| Second public consultation | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Green      | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray |            |
| Final draft of V3.0        | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Blue | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray |            |
| Member approval            | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Green      | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray |            |
| AWS Std. V3.0 launch       | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Gray | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue |



# AWS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



Dr. Hannah Baleta  
Civil Society



Sohail Ali Naqvi  
Civil Society



Christina Mallin  
Private Sector



Laura Kowalski  
Private Sector



Dr. Xue Bai  
Public Sector



Dr. Petra  
Schmitter  
Public Sector



Rolf Hogan  
Civil Society



Julia Cadaval  
Martins  
Civil Society



Oliver Maennicke  
Private Sector



Manuel Augusto  
Olaechae von  
Sonnenberg  
Private Sector



Badra  
Kamaladasa  
Public Sector

# DRAFT AWS STANDARD V3.0

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES

### Practicality

Simplification of language

Clarification of concepts and terminology

Streamlining of requirements

Clearer requirements for conformance

### Utility

Climate and Resilience

Biodiversity and Important Water-Related Areas

Collective Action

Desalination and Reuse

### Value

Increased alignment with reporting requirements for CSRD ESRS E3 – Water and marine resources.

Exploring further interoperability with other ESRS – Pollution, Biodiversity, Climate Change.

# PRACTICALITY

**Streamlining the AWS Standard for companies to implement cost-effectively at scale.**

## **1. Streamlining Requirements**

- The draft has 29 fewer Requirements (previously referred to as Indicators) than V2.0.
- Requirements related to indirect water use removed.

## **2. Approach to Advanced Requirements**

- With significantly fewer Advanced Requirements than V2.0, it is proposed to have only one level of advanced certification rather than two (Gold and Platinum).

## **3. Clearer Requirements for Conformance and Simplification of Language**

- Requirements have been written to make expectations for conformance clearer.
- Language has been simplified – shorter sentences, less jargon, clear and concise phrasing.

## **4. Clarification of Concepts and Terminology**

- Definitions of key concepts revised, and new definitions added to the Glossary.

# UTILITY

**Supporting alignment with wider sustainability agendas and priorities.**

## **1. Climate & Resilience**

- New requirements for sites to understand climate trends and water-related impacts, identify climate risks and demonstrate efforts to improve resilience.

## **2. Biodiversity & Important Water-Related Areas (IWRAs)**

- Biodiversity incorporated into the Standard through revisions to IWRA requirements.
- IWRAs redefined as “natural water-related areas of high value from a biodiversity, ecosystem services, social, cultural or spiritual perspective...”.

## **3. Collective Action**

- New core requirements for sites to identify opportunities and participate in collective action.

## **4. Desalination & Reuse**

- Revisions to ensure Standard is equally applicable to sites that depend on desalinated water.
- New requirements to recognise and encourage water reuse.

# VALUE

## Strengthening integration with corporate-level reporting.

### 1. Integration with EU CSRD Corporate Level Reporting

- Revisions were made to create greater alignment and interoperability with CSRD ESRS E3:
  - Inclusion of water use intensity (1.3.4);
  - Option for sites to provide organizational water policy in place of a site water stewardship strategy (2.3.1);
  - Requirement for sites to specify whether targets in their water stewardship plan are required by legislation (2.3.2).
- Information gathered for the draft AWS Standard V3.0 can directly inform 31 of 51 ESRS E3 indicators with limited processing of additional effort – an increase from 20 in V2.0.
- Further interoperability with other European Sustainability Reporting Standards, including Climate Change (E1), Pollution (E2) and Biodiversity and Ecosystems (E4) to be explored.
- Guidance to be developed to support aggregation of data from sites for corporate level reporting.

# GLOBAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION



## Overview

- Public consultation on the first draft of the AWS Standard V3.0 open until **20 December 2024**.
- A summary of the feedback received will be made publicly available.

## Get Involved

- Download and review the draft AWS Standard V3.0.
- Provide feedback in one or two ways:
  1. Complete the public consultation survey.
  2. Provide detailed feedback on individual requirements in the draft AWS Standard V3.0 Excel file and submit on the AWS website.



# HAVE A QUESTION?

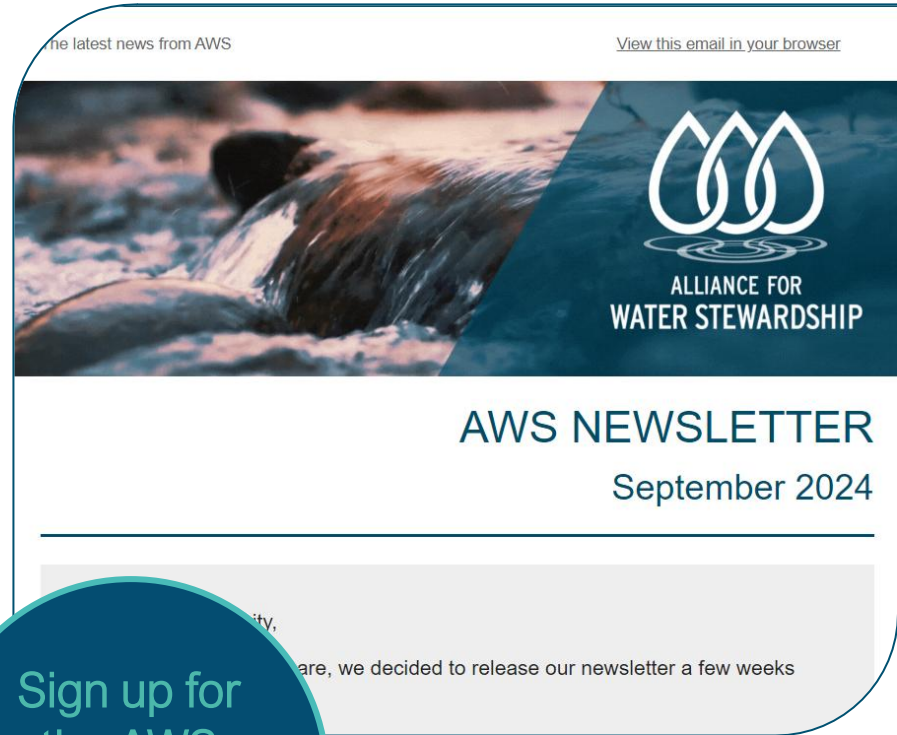
Please post your questions using the Q&A box which is to the bottom left of your screen.

Please include your:

- Name
- Organisation
- Question



# STAY INVOLVED



Sign up for the AWS newsletter at [a4ws.org](https://a4ws.org)





# Thank you for joining us!

If you have any further questions or would like to organise a call to discuss your feedback, please contact Tyler.



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