IWRM Action Hub

RESOURCE

Diffuse Pollution, Degraded Waters: Emerging Policy Solutions

|

Description / Abstract

After decades of regulation and investment to reduce point source water pollution, OECD countries still face water quality challenges (e.g. eutrophication) from diffuse agricultural and urban sources of pollution, that is disperse pollution from surface runoff, soil filtration and atmospheric deposition. The relative lack of progress reflects the complexities of controlling multiple pollutants from multiple sources, their high spatial and temporal variability, associated transactions costs, and limited political acceptability of regulatory measures. This report outlines the water quality challenges facing OECD countries today, presents a range of policy instruments and innovative case studies of diffuse pollution control, and concludes with an integrated policy framework to tackle diffuse water pollution. An optimal approach will likely entail a mix of policy interventions reflecting the basic OECD principles of water quality management – pollution prevention, treatment at source, the polluter pays and beneficiary pays principles, equity, and policy coherence.

Publication year
2017

Publisher
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - OECD

Keywords
Policy

Thematic Tagging
Ecosystems/Nature-based solutions Private Sector Water services
Language English
View resource

Related IWRM Tools



Tool

Tradable Pollution Permits

C4.03

Source URL: https://iwrmactionhub.org/resource/diffuse-pollution-degraded-waters-emerging-policy-solutions