

Sweden

Fast Facts

- **Life Expectancy:** 82.8 years
- **Income Classification:** High Income
- **Population Below Poverty Line:** 17.1%
- **Region:** Europe
- **Drinking Water Source:** 99.8%
- **Sanitation Facility Access:** 100%



National Actions

Currently, Sweden does not experience **water scarcity** as 90% of all households are connected to public water and sanitation that is closely monitored and treated by the government. The country relies on simple purification of already high quality freshwater sources for Sweden's local water supply-- 50% from **groundwater** sources and 50% from **watercourses** (lakes and running water sources). To ensure good drinking water quality, all drinking water producers must follow the Swedish National Food Agency's regulations. Drinking water is regularly examined during production to ensure that it does not contain any unwanted microorganisms or chemical substances. To manage the **wastewater** collected in all municipalities, Sweden has between 1,200 and 1,300 treatment plants and a total of 101,000 kilometers of sewage pipes. Some communities in the countryside have their own sewage treatment plants, which require a permit from the government. Property owners are obliged to pay water service fees to the municipalities for these services. **Climate change** is a concern for the future of Sweden's water supply, as some water restrictions have been put into place during dry, hotter seasons to prevent major droughts.

International Actions

Sweden has been very active in the international community, giving aid to nations that experience **water scarcity** due to climate change or internal conflict. In 2018, among reports of extreme water scarcity and sanitation conditions, Sweden and a group of other nations pledged millions towards a comprehensive plan to bring clean water and other critical resources to displaced Rohingya Muslims in Bangladesh as well as urged the atrocities against the Rohingya be referred to The Hague as crimes against humanity. In 2016, Sweden pledged to help Bolivia with **water management** systems as well as **sanitation** and hygiene based programs including the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) initiative, with the goal of promoting basic hygiene.

Image: [Sweden](#)

Fast Facts: CIA World Factbook, World Bank

National Actions: [Fresh water resources - Sweden - Climatechange.org](#)/ [Sweden | Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)/ [Measures to promote safe water and sanitation in Sweden - Lexology](#)/ [Water - Smart City Sweden](#) .

International Actions: [Urban WASH Advisor WaterAid Sweden](#)

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