



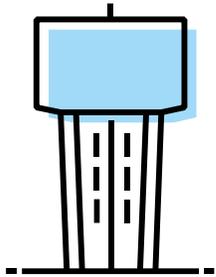
De Watergroep: journey towards a climate smart utility

PAULINE OTTOY, DE WATERGROEP, BELGIUM – 15/09/2022



De Watergroep

“We supply a range of customised water solutions.
Today, for tomorrow’s generation.”

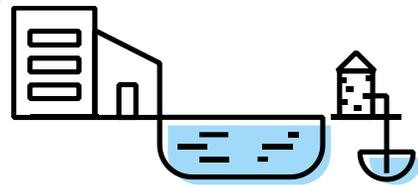


82

water towers

61

reservoirs

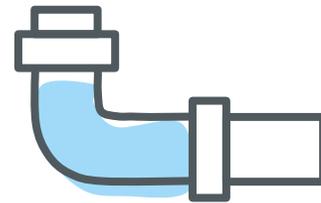


85

ground
water
abstractions

5

surface water
abstractions



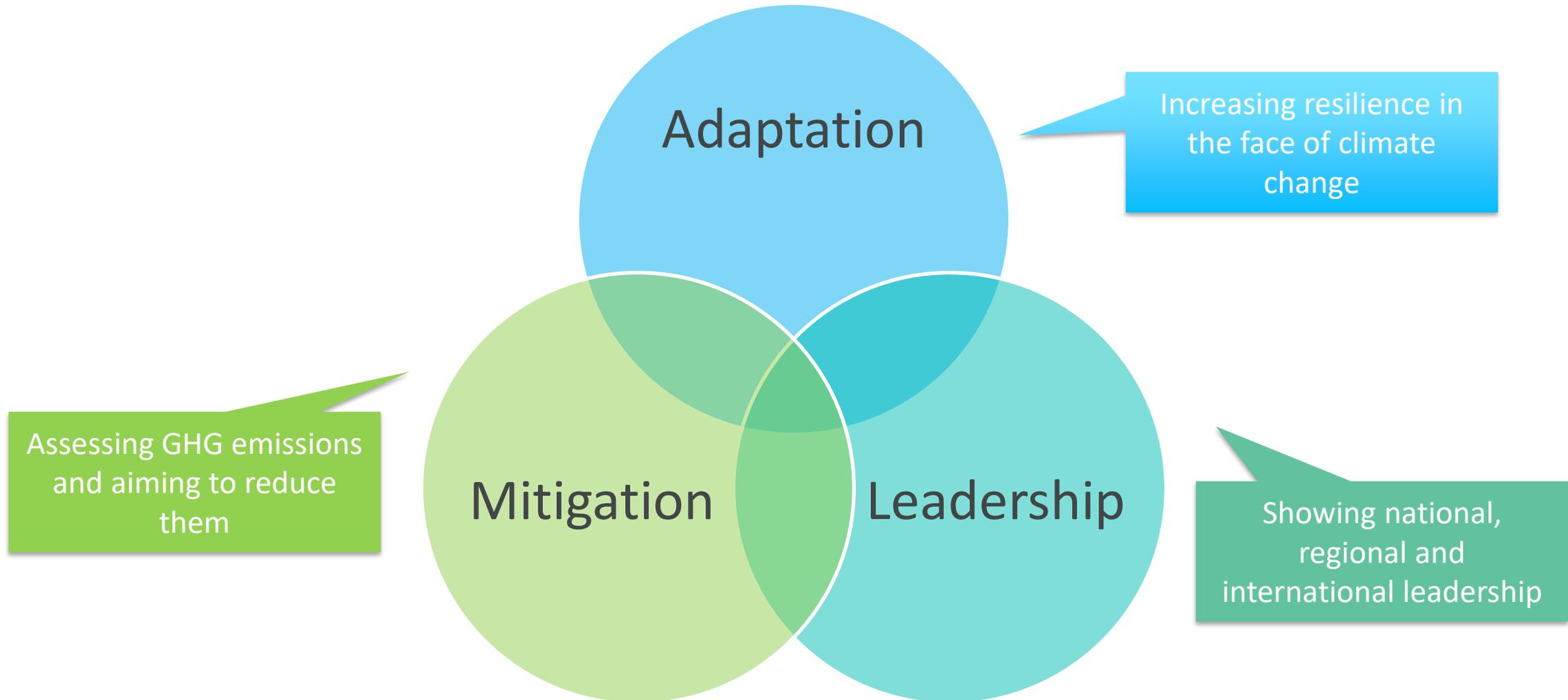
34,400 km
of pipeline



3.2 mio

Customers in
180
municipalities

CLIMATE SMART UTILITY: 3 INTERCONNECTED PILLARS FOR A CULTURAL SHIFT



CO₂ emission equivalents in 2021



ECOSYSTEMS @ EXTRACTION SITES

- Carbon stock of 450,000 tonnes of CO₂
- Yearly carbon capture of 7,500 tonnes of CO₂

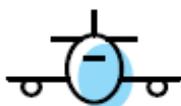


Groundwater

- releases CO₂ + methane
- 3,231 tonnes when treated

Air travel

- 2,4 tonnes of CO₂



Fleet

- 4,534 tonnes of CO₂



Building heating

- natural gas:
1,744 tonnes of CO₂
- fuel oil:
143 tonnes of CO₂



Sludge transport

- 390 tonnes of CO₂



Chemicals

- use:
14,263 tonnes of CO₂
- transport:
507 tonnes of CO₂

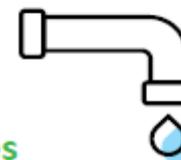


Electricity consumption

- from the grid:
16,370 tonnes of CO₂
- from the sun:
240 tonnes of CO₂

Laying pipelines

- 7,361 tonnes of CO₂



OUR CLIMATE PLAN

- TRANSPORT: -75% fuel consumption by 2030
- HEATING: -75% fossil fuel consumption by 2030
- ENERGY NEUTRALITY: total renewable energy supply
- Measures regarding the use of chemicals, choice of materials, circular economy...

SPOTLIGHT CLIMATE SMART ACTION: ENERGY NEUTRAL BY 2030 (1/2)



2020: **Inventory** assets & energy consumption



2021: **Screening** assets on potential RES



2022: Roadmap, funding & **tendering**



2021-2025: **self-financed** projects (rooftop PV)



2023-2030: **third party investment** projects (wind turbines)

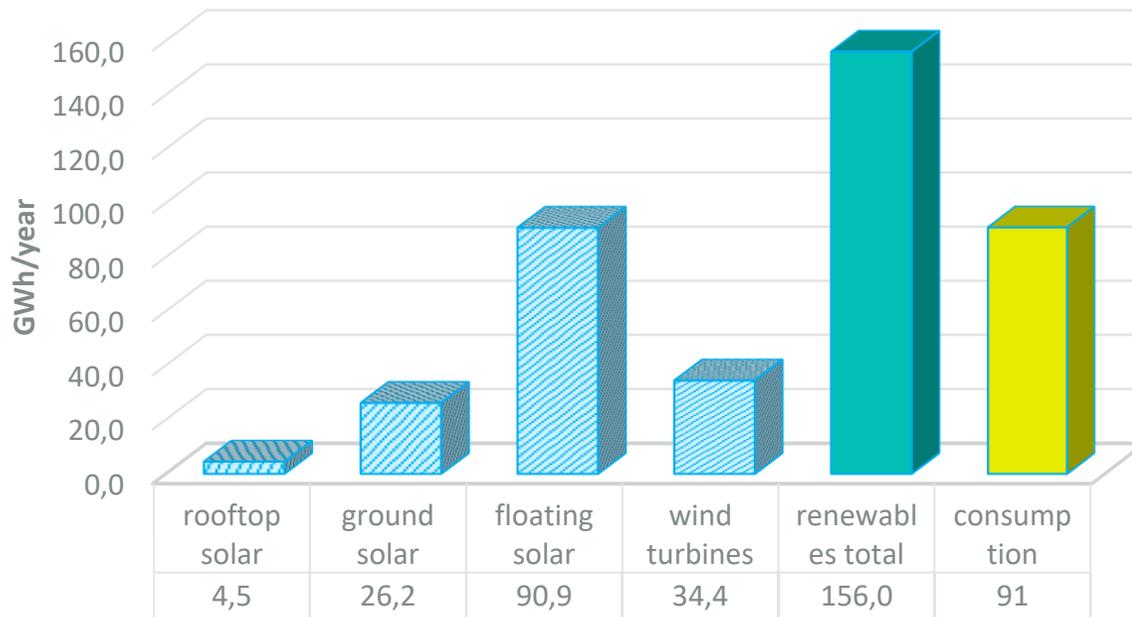
Ambition De Watergroep → Being Energy Neutral by 2030:

“energy consumption (90GWh/yr) related to the company’s activities fully covered by renewable energy production on our own sites, by 2030.”



SPOTLIGHT CLIMATE SMART ACTION: ENERGY NEUTRAL BY 2030 (2/2)

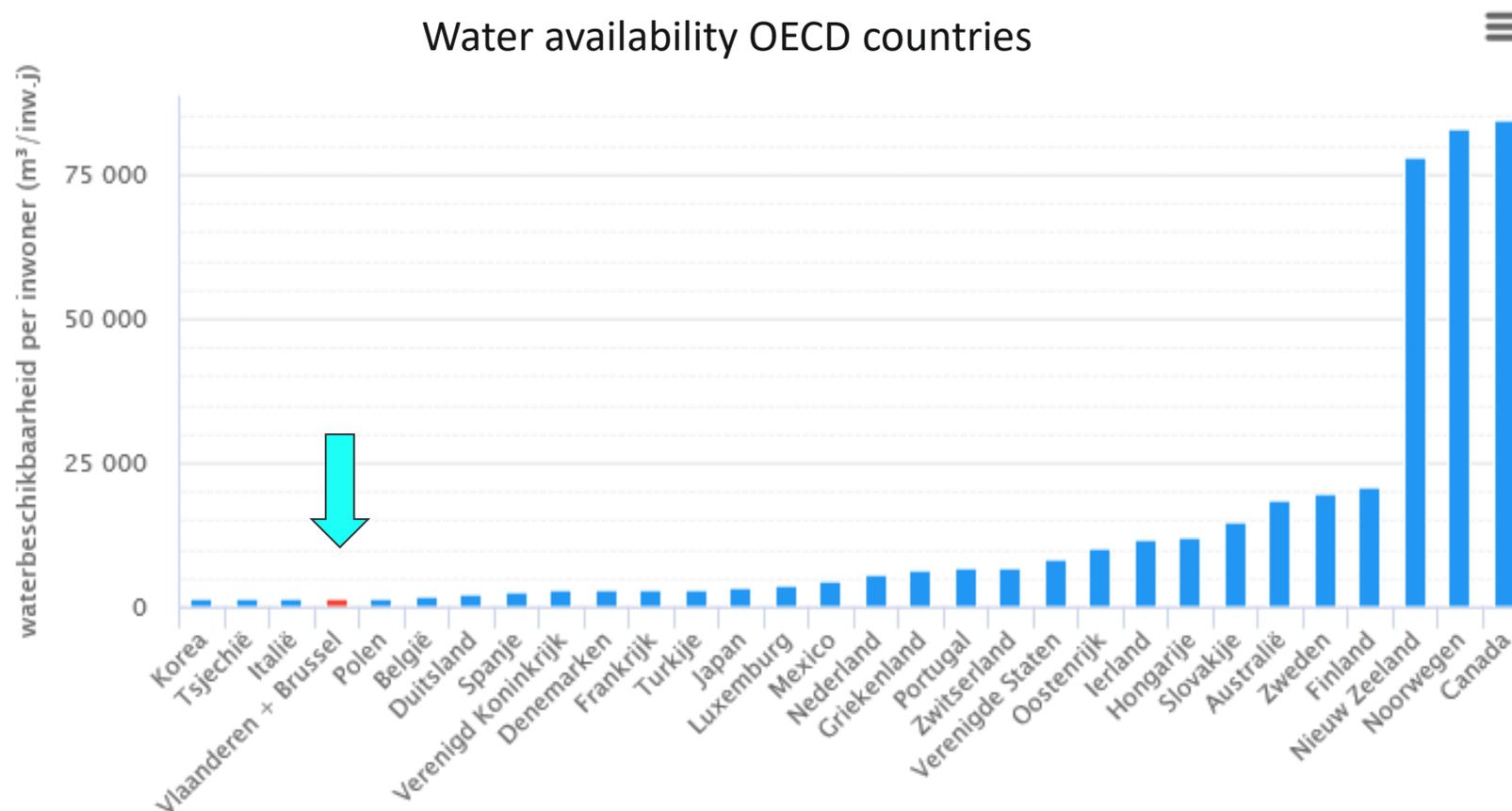
DE WATERGROEP AMBITION RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2030



- Potential for renewable energy:
 - 156 GWh/yr vs.
 - Consumption 91 GWh/yr
- Self-financed investments:
 - Mostly Rooftop PV
 - Sharing renewable electricity in ‘Energy Community’, cfr EU Clean Energy Package
- 3rd party investments:
 - Design, Build, Finance, Operate by third party on De Watergroep sites
 - Buy-back energy through Virtual Power Purchase Agreement

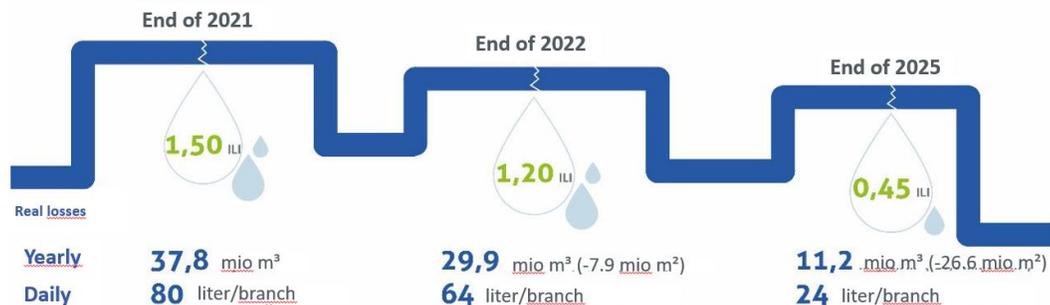
CLIMATE ADAPTATION @ DE WATERGROEP (1/2)

- Flanders, one of European regions most at risk for water scarcity & droughts → Lowering water use and diversifying Waterportfolio is key



CLIMATE ADAPTATION @ DE WATERGROEP (2/2): HOW?

- Reducing water losses is a **strategic objective**:
“Everyone is Leakie” Program



- Installing 1,5 million **digital water meters** by 2030 to encourage water reduction by data

- Actively researching **alternative sources** for drinking water production:

- Climate resilient LT water supply plans
- Alternative sources experiments:
 - Desalination of brackish water
 - Direct & indirect re-use
 - Rainwater
 - Aquifer Storage Recovery



- Policy initiatives & investment projects in Blue Deal

LEADERSHIP @ DE WATERGROEP

- Strong learning culture and focus on innovation:
 - R&D department >14 FTE & 70 R&D-projects
 - Sharing knowledge in-company with podcast & vlog “Watermakers”
 - Focus training and learning for all employees
 - EYWP program
- International leadership:
 - CEO Hans Goossens president Water Europe
 - Shareholder KWR and partnership R&D institutions
 - 6 abstracts IWA WWC Copenhagen
 - 8 EU-funded projects on smart water and climate policy



Horizon2020
European Union Funding
for Research & Innovation



SUSTAINABILITY @ DE WATERGROEP: EXAMPLES

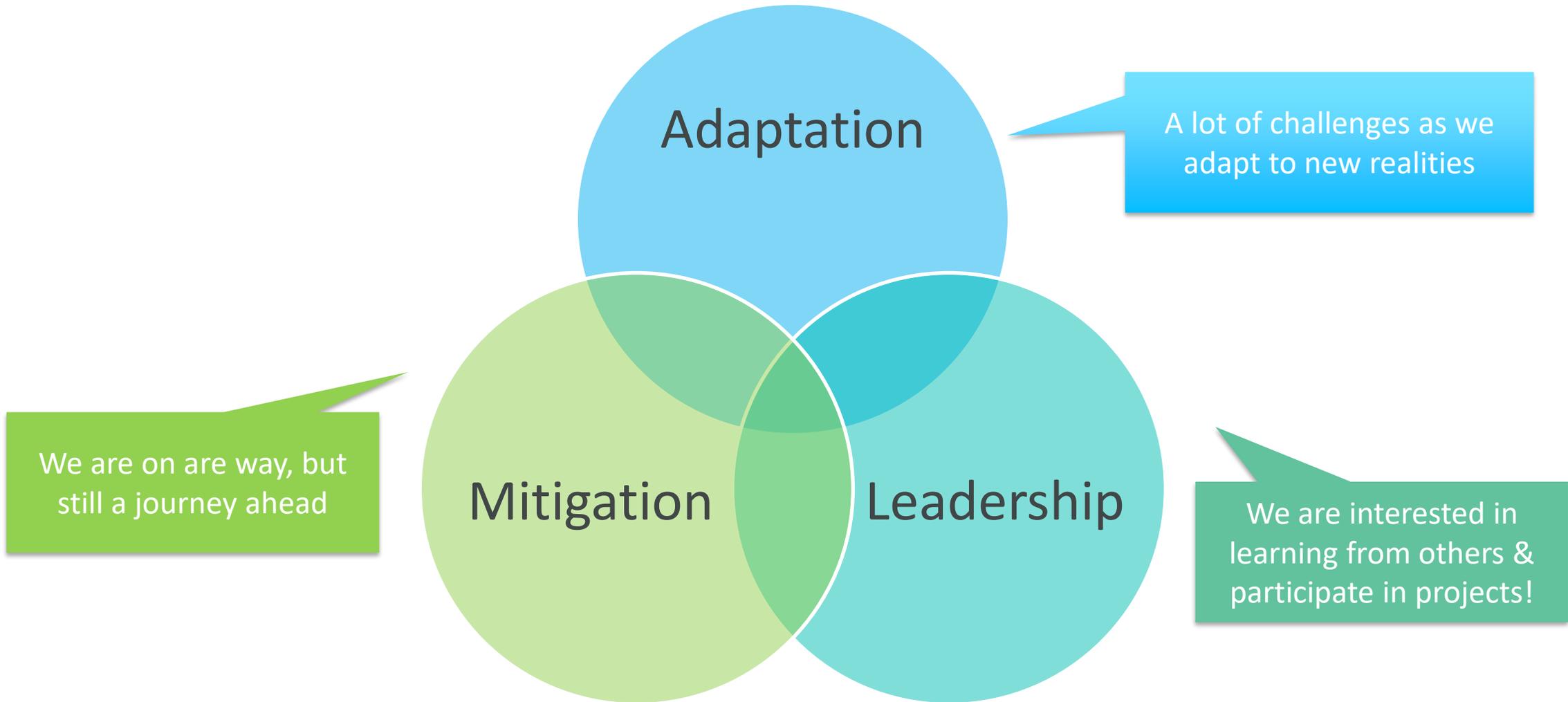


DE WATERGROEP IS PART OF THE FLUID CREW



- Find us at booth C2-302 of the Fluid Crew for interesting talks & pitches
- Contact: innovatie@dewatergroep.be

CLIMATE SMART UTILITY: DE WATERGROEP



Questions?