



The Ministry of Innovation, Universities and Enterprise is promoting an action plan to increase the rational use of water in the tourism sector

- **The Director General of Tourism, Joan Carles Vilalta, held a meeting today with sector representatives in order to establish a code of good practices for environmental sustainability management and the rational use of water. The goal is that these voluntary recommendations become permanent conduct guidelines in an economic sector committed to quality and environmental sustainability management.**
- **The Ministry's proposals centre around four main areas: to promote general policies for sustainability and the rational use of water; to promote specific lines of aid for the implementation of measures related to water saving, treatment and reuse in tourist establishments; to support the sector in the event of emergency drought situations; and to foster the adaptation of the general measures adopted by the government to the tourism sector.**
- **The Catalan tourism sector is at the forefront of good water-saving practices. A large percentage has already put forth a great effort, in addition to the government's measures, to ration use and thus ensure a normal tourist season.**

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The Director General of Tourism, Joan Carles Vilalta, has presented the representatives of Catalonia's tourism sector with a series of measures today aimed at increasing the rational use of water in tourist establishments. Both the Ministry of Innovation, Universities and Enterprise and the sector are implementing an ongoing code of good practices, which foster sustainability and energy efficiency.

The Catalan tourism sector boasts extensive experience in the rational use of water (which includes water use, reuse and saving). In fact, this sector is at the forefront of good water-saving practices and rational use. A large percentage of tourist establishments (campsites, hotels) have already put forth a great effort to adopt measures for the rational use and reuse of water.



The Ministry's proposals focus on four main areas:

1. To promote general policies that promote sustainability and the rational use of water (saving, treatment and reuse).
2. To support the creation of specific lines of aid, together with the Catalan Water Agency (ACA- Agència Catalana de l'Aigua) and the Ministry of the Environment and Housing, in order to implement water saving, treatment and reuse measures in tourist establishments (hotels, campsites, rural tourism facilities).
3. To support the sector in the event of emergency drought situations.
4. To foster the adaptation of general drought measures adopted by the government to the tourism sector.

Recommendations from the Ministry of Innovation, Universities and Enterprise

In addition to the government's initiatives driven by the Ministry of Innovation, Universities and Enterprise, a series of specific water-saving recommendations for tourist establishments has been presented to the attendees. These measures, which complement other general saving measures, are primarily aimed at tourism operators. The Ministry's goal is that these voluntary recommendations will not only be adopted in the short-term, but that they will also become permanent conduct guidelines in an economic sector committed to quality and environmental sustainability management.

The presented recommendations, which are primarily aimed at hotels and campsites, focus on four specific areas:

1. Improvement of the facilities' efficiency: to assess water consumption so that the initial and resulting situations can be compared; to control consumption with individual meters that make it possible to detect any leaks or malfunctions in the water consumption system at all times.
2. Training and awareness for the establishments' staff: especially with regard to general cleaning procedures and the facilities' gardens and green areas.



3. Water saving systems and measurements in the facilities, which can be divided into two main types: specific and structural. The systems currently available include but are not limited to: individual meters; inlet water pressure regulators; saving mechanisms for taps, tanks and cleaning procedures; saving systems for green areas; saving systems for cooling equipment; rainwater collection systems; reuse systems for excess swimming pool water; and greywater reuse systems, amongst others.

4. Raising customer awareness (without adversely affecting their standards of comfort): involve customers in the water-saving improvements that have been adopted and offer them the opportunity to play an active role (for example, providing them with the option of not changing the sheets and towels every day).