

Briefing Paper: Distributed Water Systems

The second briefing paper in VEIL's distributed systems series is ready for release – *Distributed Water Systems: A networked and localised approach for sustainable water services*

This paper draws on case studies and research to describe the emergence of innovative water systems based around a localised and networked approach. It examines:

- The key characteristics of distributed water systems
- Examples of systems developed for a range of conditions – from an eco-village context to a high-rise apartment block
- The benefits of applying a networked and localised approach to water system design.

The paper argues that many low-cost and low-risk opportunities exist to increase the security and adaptive capacity of our water systems. Part of the challenge in developing resilient and sustainable systems lies in finding ways to better match demand with supply and make use of water resources where they occur. The distributed systems approach does this by taking a context-specific approach to system design; making use of local water supplies and linking systems to each other. This provides flexibility through diversity, sensitivity and the ability to adapt to changing conditions. Adopting a localised and networked approach to water management can widen our concept of what water systems are and what they can be designed to do – reducing stress on existing water infrastructure, supporting community well-being and enabling innovative synergies.

For more information go to visit the **Distributed Water Systems** page.