

The Principle of Full Cost Recovery in the EU-Water Framework Directive—Genesis and Content

[Get access >](#)

Herwig Unnerstall

Journal of Environmental Law, Volume 19, Issue 1, 2007, Pages 29–42,<https://doi.org/10.1093/jel/eql038>**Published:** 01 February 2007

Extract

1. Introduction

The integration of economic aspects in river basin management has been a feature of the European Water Framework Directive¹ from its initial drafts. Its most important reference is in Article 9 that introduces the principle of cost recovery² for water services³ in accordance with the polluter pays principle. Cost recovery is achieved through the prices that the water service consumers have to pay to the provider directly and through any tax, charge or levy that is imposed on the service, and is borne by the consumer directly or indirectly. Full cost recovery pricing of water services according to the ‘polluter pays principle’ fulfils three basic economic functions: informational, steering and financing. Ideally, the price of a good reflects all financial and supplementary costs incurred by the production of that good. A full cost recovery for water services in accordance with the polluter pays principle has the potential to inform the consumers of the water services about the complete costs of their consumption, and the water users about the costs of their activities such as the discharge of wastewater that deteriorate the quality of waters.

Issue Section: [Articles](#)

You do not currently have access to this article.

Sign in[Get help with access](#)**Personal account****Institutional access**

- Sign in with email/username & password
- Get email alerts
- Save searches
- Purchase content
- Activate your purchase/trial code
- Add your ORCID iD

Sign in >

Register



Sign in through your institution



Sign in through your institution >

[Sign in with a library card](#)

[Sign in with username/password](#)

[Recommend to your librarian](#)

Institutional account management

[Sign in as administrator](#)

Purchase

[Subscription prices and ordering for this journal](#)

[Purchasing options for books and journals across Oxford Academic](#)

Short-term Access

To purchase short-term access, please sign in to your personal account above.

Don't already have a personal account? [Register](#)

The Principle of Full Cost Recovery in the EU-Water Framework Directive—Genesis and Content - 24 Hours access

EUR €53.00

GBP £44.00

USD \$58.00

Rental



This article is also available for rental through DeepDyve.