Berlin has 221 km² of water protection zones – that is equal to a quarter of the city area. Investments in the Berlin wastewater infrastructure amounting to more than EUR 5 billion since 1990 have resulted in 81% less phosphorous and 98% less ammoniacal nitrogen being discharged into the Spree and Havel rivers.

We protect nature in a wide variety of ways: in the protected areas around the waterworks, many animal and plant species have settled. In the disused sand filters, rare bat species such as the greater mouse-eared bat, have found a winter habitat. By creating underground reservoirs for polluted stormwater, we are helping to clean up the Spree and the Havel.
Around 245 million cubic metres of wastewater were treated at 6 sewage treatment plants in 2016. This wastewater is transported by 160 pumping stations through a total of 9,710 kilometres of sewer networks and 1,181 kilometres of force main networks.

After it is used in the household, wastewater disappears down the drain and the toilet. What happens afterwards — that is what we take care of. We inspect and maintain the sewer network and repair it if required. In our sewage treatment plants, we treat wastewater from households, industry and businesses so that it can be returned to the natural cycle.

In 2016, Berliner Wasserbetriebe delivered a total of 210 million cubic metres of water from around 650 groundwater wells to customers in Berlin and Brandenburg, using 9 waterworks. The water flows through a pipeline network measuring 7,900 kilometres to reach the 298,000 building connections in Berlin.

Fresh, healthy drinking water is part of our core business. Most people simply take it for granted that water always comes out of the tap — and that it has a permanently high quality. But a great deal of work goes on behind it. In the waterworks, where Berlin groundwater is filtered naturally. In the pipeline network, which transports our water to our customers with impeccable standards of hygiene and with hardly any losses. And at the building connections, which we maintain and repair where required.

56% of the energy required to run the sewage treatment plants is already generated from renewable energy sources, such as biogas and sewage sludge. Since the end of 2012, 3 wind turbines at the Schönerlinde sewage treatment plant, each with an output of 2 megawatts, have been helping us to reach environmental goals.

70% of the energy required for our sewage treatment plants and 22% of our total energy requirement is self-generated.

56% of our purchasing volume — approximately EUR 373 million in 2016 — is supplied to companies in Berlin and Brandenburg. Berliner Wasserbetriebe invested EUR 241 million in 2016 in its networks and facilities, which form part of our city’s infrastructure.

Serving the public — we give this phrase the broadest interpretation. Berliner Wasserbetriebe supports medium-sized companies in the construction industry and invests in Berlin’s infrastructure. As part of the initiative “mehrwert Berlin”, we and 17 other public companies have made a firm, long-term commitment to various economic, environmental and social areas, including support for education.