

press release

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FACED WITH THE CHALLENGES OF RAREFIED RESOURCES, SUEZ environnement ORGANISES THE GLOBAL RESOURCE OBSERVATORY

SUEZ environnement has conducted a global resource observatory to measure the general public's perception of the challenges and the solutions regarding rarefied natural resources.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, and 6 months before the COP21, SUEZ environnement published the first issue of its Worldwide Resource Observatory.

By 2030, the population of the planet will reach nearly 9 billion, 70% of whom will be living in regions that are regularly exposed to water shortages. Faced with the increase in the volume of waste and rampant urbanisation, it is essential that we find solutions to the problems of water management, the treatment, recycling and reuse of waste and, more globally, the means to durably preserve our natural resources.

The global Resource Observatory is an unprecedented international survey conducted by the Harris Interactive institute on representative samples of inhabitants of nine countries: seven in Europe (Germany, the UK, Sweden, Spain, Holland, Italy and France), plus the United States and China.

The goal of this survey was to assess the degree to which the inhabitants questioned in the various countries are in step with the resource revolution and to find out whether people living in different parts of the planet perceive the question of resources in the same manner.

Here are the main findings of the Observatory :

- **Citizens are well aware of the issues. Resource management is unanimously considered to be a major concern, and everyone agrees that we must quickly change our model, especially in Europe.**

92% of the Europeans who were questioned think that we must change the way we manage our resources, and 69% feel that a radical change is needed.

In addition to the rarefaction of resources, the notion of their over-exploitation is also predominant and is already perceived as the origin of conflicts of use between different players.

- **Water resources are at the heart of our concerns** Water resources are essential in the eyes of most people, and are considered to be more important than oil or gas in most countries.

One out of two people in Europe and the United States spontaneously included water amongst the main resources, compared with four out of ten in China.

- **People consider resources to be a worldwide issue, rather than a local issue.**

90% of the Chinese, 89% of Europeans and 84% of Americans think that resources are an increasingly global issue.

- **But citizens are aware that effective solutions exist to go about managing resources differently.**

To a great extent, these solutions rely on:

- Innovation, to produce alternative resources (biofuel, biogas, recycled metals, etc.), for 89% of respondents in Europe, 76% in the United States and 92% in China.
- The coordination of resource management between countries and cities, or between the public and private sectors, is felt to be particularly important for 85% of Europeans, 86% of Chinese and 67% of Americans.
- The promotion of concrete solutions that support the circular economy, which is perceived by the general public in all countries as the way forward, and in particular by recycling waste, reusing wastewater, optimising usages, reusing products and fighting against programmed obsolescence.

- **Managing resources more efficiently and more responsibly is everyone's business.** Major international companies and governments both have an important role to play. All the players questioned (international organisations, local authorities, innovative start-ups, NGOs and individuals) also consider that they have an important role to play.

Nine out of ten people questioned in all the countries think that companies have an important role to play in the management of resources.

- Citizens are prepared to engage individually to preserve resources on a massive scale and consider that they already make an effort to do so (by paying attention to the resources they consume in their everyday lives, sorting their waste, limiting non-essential travel, etc.).

83% of Europeans, 71% of Americans and 70% of the Chinese claim that they pay attention to their consumption of resources on a daily basis.

Jean-Louis Chaussade, SUEZ environnement's Managing Director, comments: *"The results of our Observatory show that the general public considers the protection of resources to be an urgent issue and that our current model is no longer viable. We are on the eve of a collective and worldwide resource revolution. Stakeholders must be made aware of the state of our resources and we must motivate the players to invent or produce alternative resources.*

Urgent action is needed and our role consists of making all the players collaborate and invent new modes of governance. This is the approach we have always adopted to preserve the future."

Full results of the survey are on: <http://newsroom.suez-environnement.com/>

The method

-An online survey between 25 February and 5 March 2015.

-A sample of 1,000 people, representative of the inhabitants aged over 18 in each of the nine counties, i.e., 9,000 interviews.

-The quotas and adjustment method was applied to the following variables: gender, age, income and region. For the "European" output, each country was weighted according to its number of inhabitants.

SUEZ environnement

We are at the dawn of the resource revolution. In a world facing high demographic growth, runaway urbanisation and the shortage of natural resources, securing, optimising and renewing resources is essential to our future. SUEZ environnement (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) supplies drinking water to 92 million people, delivers wastewater treatment services to 65 million, collects waste produced by almost 50 million, recovers 14 million tons of waste each year and produces 5,138 GWh of local and renewable energy. With 80,990 employees, SUEZ environnement, which is present on all five continents, is a key player in circular economy for in the sustainable management of resources. SUEZ environnement generated total revenues of €14.3 billion in 2014.

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