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## Pfizer Algete Spain: Innovate to Irrigate



*Pfizer Algete facility's wastewater treatment plant*

Pfizer's biotech Algete facility located in Madrid Spain set a goal of "zero wastewater discharge" to the Jarama River. Knowing the Madrid area has a limited water supply, colleagues challenged themselves and each other to think about wastewater more as a product than a waste, looking for innovative ways to reuse and recycle this valuable resource.

With a solid track record and history of compliance, Algete teams began working with local authorities to determine whether the treated water discharged from the wastewater treatment plant could indeed be used for other purposes. Several rounds of sampling, testing and analysis demonstrated consistent and favorable water quality, establishing the foundation for next steps.

Colleagues set out making the business case to reutilize wastewater for onsite landscape irrigation. Success! After presenting the results to Pfizer leadership and Spanish Regulatory Authorities, approvals were granted. The reuse permit issued in April 2009, allowing for more than 4,000 m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater to be used annually for irrigation which equals a 6% decrease in water consumption.

The teams at Algete paved the way for others – Pfizer was the first industry in Spain to receive a permit to reuse wastewater for irrigation under the New Royal Decree (1620/2007) and there is potential to expand the reuse of wastewater in off site landscaping irrigation, fire protection systems and cooling towers if the project is successful.