

WHY CITIZEN SCIENCE?

Citizen science is a vital tool to monitor and research in collaboration with volunteers who produce trusted data to provide evidence on environmental matters.

Volunteers monitoring the quality of the water at their local beach, river or lake is essential at a local level to create awareness and shine a light on the issue. There is also a huge advantage of the local knowledge that citizen scientists have to focus on the issues and where there may be gaps in monitoring from the regulator and polluters. The data collected is essential at a national level to hold polluters to account, drive change in legislation and to apply pressure for regulators to be funded adequately to undertake more rigorous monitoring.

Why do we use Bathing Water standards for our Citizen Science programme

At SAS, our Citizen Science water quality testing program has been designed to generate comparable results to how bathing waters are monitored as stated in the Bathing Water Regulations 2013.

Public health is our campaigning priority at SAS but our work is naturally connected to how sewage impacts the environment as well as water users. Currently, the only waterways that are monitored for pollutants harmful to human health are bathing waters. The way these waterways are monitored are not fit for purpose but we follow this regime to compare with the results with the regulator.

Once a bathing water is designated, the Regulator has a responsibility to collect samples weekly during the bathing season. At SAS we follow the same testing regime and method that the Regulator uses.

Who is the Regulator?

[England – Environment Agency \(EA\)](#)

[Northern Ireland - The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(DAERA\)](#)

[Scotland – Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#)

[Wales – Natural Resources Wales \(NRW\)](#)

When is the bathing season?

England and Wales – 15 May to 30 September

Northern Ireland and Scotland – 1 June to 15 September