Referencias, Diferencias entre huella hídrica y huella de agua

Huella Hídrica de Productos, Servicios y Organizaciones

GENERALITAT VALENCIANA
Conselleria de Medi Ambient, Aigua, Infraestructures i Territori

CONTENIDO

DIFERENCIAS Y COMPATIBILIDAD ENTRE LA HUELLA HÍDRICA Y LA HUELLA DE AGUA

La huella hídrica y la huella de agua son términos relacionados pero diferentes.

Se calculan a través de dos metodologías distintas. Para el cálculo y gestión de la huella hídrica se emplea la metodología de la **Water footprint Network**, en cambio, para el cálculo y la evaluación de la huella de agua se utiliza la norma **ISO 14046**.

La huella hídrica se centra en la cuantificación del **agua consumida**, mientras que la huella de Agua, de manera adicional, evalúa también los **impactos ambientales asociados**, bajo un enfoque de análisis del ciclo de vida.

Concretamente, la huella hídrica es un indicador del uso del agua dulce, que mide los volúmenes de agua consumidos por origen y los volúmenes de agua contaminados por tipo de contaminación, y se divide en tres componentes o tipos de consumo:

- **Huella hídrica azul o agua azul:** El agua superficial y subterránea evaporada, incorporada en el proceso o producto, retornada a otra cuenca o vertida al mar.
- **Huella hídrica verde o agua verde**: El agua de lluvia que se evapora y evapotranspira por las plantas y que por tanto no se convierte en escorrentía.
- **Huella hídrica gris o agua gris**: El agua necesaria para diluir la contaminación generada por una actividad.

Por su parte, la huella de agua se basa en la recopilación y evaluación de las entradas, salidas y los impactos ambientales potenciales relacionados con el agua asociados con una organización, producto o proceso

En ambos estudios se tienen en cuenta los **flujos directos e indirectos** de agua.

La huella hídrica se expresa en términos de **volumen de agua por unidad de tiempo**. Si se quiere referir a un producto, la huella hídrica se expresa en forma de **volumen de agua por unidad de producto**. Por el contrario, la unidad de medida de la huella de agua **varía en función de las categorías de impacto e indicadores seleccionados**, aunque también va referida siempre a la unidad funcional seleccionada.

ENTIDADES RELACIONADAS CON LA HUELLA HÍDRICA

Comunidad de la Water Footprint Network

Fundada como una red de múltiples partes interesadas sin fines de lucro**, Water Footprint Network** tiene como objetivo ayudar a los socios a iniciar actividades, compartir mejores prácticas y desarrollar herramientas y materiales que ayuden a alcanzar la misión establecida por la comunidad:

"Utilizar el concepto de huella hídrica para promover la transición hacia un uso sostenible, justo y eficiente de los recursos de agua dulce en todo el mundo".

Otras entidades de interés

Red EsAgua: Red pionera en España de entidades comprometidas con la reducción de su huella hídrica. Esta iniciativa surge de la necesidad de las organizaciones de disponer de información relativa al uso sostenible del agua dulce y del uso de indicadores de sostenibilidad como huella hídrica y huella de Agua. Sus principales actividades son:

- Promover el conocimiento del concepto de huella hídrica y concienciar sobre la importancia al tejido empresarial, las entidades públicas y a la sociedad en general.
- Fomentar la reducción del impacto y gestión de la huella hídrica y huella de agua de las entidades adheridas, facilitando el intercambio de experiencias y buenas prácticas en esta materia.
- Posicionar a las entidades españolas como referentes en huella hídrica y en el ámbito de la sostenibilidad en el uso de agua.

Promovida por la Water Footprint Network y DNV, la Red EsAgua cuenta con empresas españolas pioneras en el interés por la huella hídrica.

AENOR: Asociación Española de Normalización y Certificación (AENOR). En enero de 2017, comienza su naturaleza como empresa, separándose jurídicamente en dos partes independientes:

- La Asociación Española de Normalización (UNE), que es la entidad designada por España para realizar las actividades de normalización en el país (normas UNE) y también participa en la normalización a nivel internacional (normas EN e ISO).
- La nueva AENOR Internacional, S.A.U. encargada de realizas las actividades de evaluación de la conformidad (certificación) y otras actividades auxiliares.

Cabe resaltar que AENOR ha lanzado el nuevo Manual de Evaluación de la Huella Hídrica traducido al castellano y elaborado por Water Footprint Network, con el que se pretende mejorar la metodología de cálculo de la huella hídrica para servir mejor a los distintos objetivos que plantean los diferentes sectores de la sociedad, al mismo tiempo que se esfuerzan por alcanzar la coherencia, la consistencia y el rigor científico.

A su vez, la norma ISO 14046:2014 ha sido elaborada por el comité técnico AEN/CTN 150 *Gestión ambiental* cuya secretaría desempeña AENOR.

Por otro lado, AENOR como organismo de certificación, entre otras entidades, realiza verificaciones tanto de estudios de huella hídrica como de huella de agua.

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Principalmente existen dos normas y metodologías de gran reconocimiento internacional para el cálculo de la huella hídrica y huella de agua:

- **Water Footprint Network:** En 2002, Arjen Hoekstra, desde el Instituto UNESCO-IHE para la Educación sobre el Agua, creó la huella hídrica como una métrica para medir la cantidad de agua consumida y contaminada para producir bienes y servicios a lo largo de toda su cadena de suministro. A raíz del creciente interés funda la plataforma de Water Footprint Network de colaboración entre empresas, organizaciones e individuos para resolver las crisis mundiales del agua promoviendo un uso justo e inteligente del agua. De esta iniciativa, surge ***el Manual de evaluación de la Huella Hídrica***, elaborado por Arjen Y. Hoekstra, Ashok K. Chapagain, Maite M. Aldaya y Mesfin M, Mekonnen en el que se establece el estándar mundial en materia de huella hídrica.
- **UNE-ISO 14046:2014:** El nacimiento del concepto de huella hídrica, siguió desarrollándose, dando lugar a otras metodologías como la de la norma ISO 14046. En la norma se especifican los principios, los requisitos y las directrices relacionados con la evaluación de la huella de agua. ISO 14046, utiliza el término de huella de agua en su traducción al castellano, y se refiere a los impactos ambientales sobre el recurso agua a lo largo del ciclo de vida de productos.

A su vez, ambas normas están muy relacionadas con la metodología del análisis de ciclo de vida, estandarizada por las normas ***UNE-EN ISO 14040*** y ***UNE-EN ISO 14044***. Estas normas establecen los requisitos, directrices, principios y marco de referencia de todo análisis de ciclo de vida.

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