

25 Year Environment Plan

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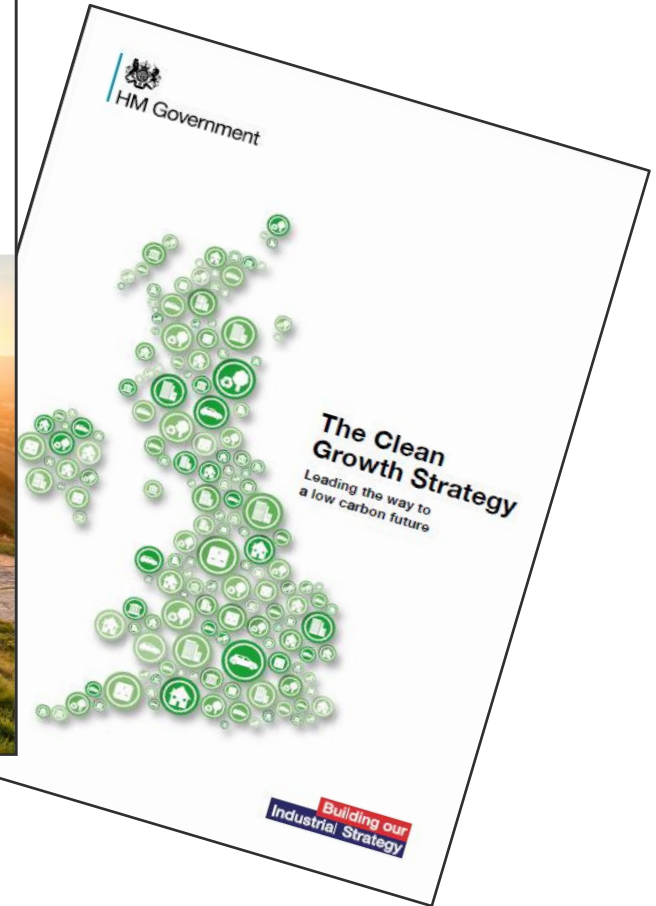
The 25 Year Environment Plan is launched



*"The environment is something personal to each of us,
"The environment is something personal to each of us, but it
is also something which collectively we hold in trust for the
next generation. And we have a responsibility to protect and
enhance it"*

Theresa May, 11 January 2018
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25 Year Environment Plan sits alongside the Industrial Strategy and Clean Growth Strategy



The journey here



- The National Ecosystem Assessment (2011)
- The Natural Environment White Paper (2011)
- The Natural Capital Committee's third State of Natural Capital report (2015)
- "...we pledge to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited. That is why we shall produce a comprehensive **25 Year Environment Plan** that will chart how we will improve our environment" (2017)
- The 25 Year Environment Plan (2018)

Our 25-year goals

We will achieve:

- Clean air
- Clean and plentiful water
- Thriving plants and wildlife
- Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought
- Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently
- Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

We will manage pressures on the environment by:

- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Minimising waste
- Managing exposure to chemicals
- Enhancing biosecurity



Our policies will focus on:

- Using and managing land sustainably
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing
- Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste
- Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans
- Protecting and improving the global environment

The plan includes over 200 actions

<p>Chapter 1: Using and managing land sustainably</p> <p>1. Embedding an "environmental net gain" principle for development, including housing and infrastructure</p>	<p>4. Focusing on woodland to maximize its many benefits</p> <p>i. Supporting the development of a new Northern Forest</p>	<p>v. Improving biodiversity to protect and conserve nature</p> <p>Developing plans to reduce the risk from all high priority pathways for invasive non-native species introduction into England.</p>	<p>3. Greening our towns and cities</p> <p>i. Creating more green infrastructure</p>
<p>Making sure that existing requirements for net gain for biodiversity in national planning policy are strengthened, including consulting on whether they should be mandated alongside any exemptions that may be necessary.</p>	<p>Working with landowners, farmers, key stakeholders and local people to identify and target areas most suitable for and likely to benefit most from woodland creation.</p>	<p>Working with partners to raise awareness of invasive nonnative species and the need for strong biosecurity.</p>	<p>Supporting the Parks Action Group in its work to help England's public parks and green spaces meet the needs of communities now and in the future.</p>
<p>Working with interested parties to reduce costs to developers by expanding the net gain approaches used for wildlife to also include wider natural capital benefits such as flood protection, recreation and improved water and air quality - streamlining environmental processes, whilst achieving net environmental gains.</p>	<p>Supporting Community Forests so that they can play a leading role in urban tree planting, both as part of the Northern Forest and in wider partnerships to bring trees and green infrastructure to towns and cities across England.</p>	<p>Maintaining an alert system to detect high priority invasive nonnative species and implement contingency plans to rapidly eradicate them where feasible.</p>	<p>Continuing our ground-breaking work with Exeter University to update the world-leading Outdoor Recreation Valuation Tool (ORVAs) in 2018.</p>
<p>Working with interested parties to improve and expand the range of tools and guidance that support biodiversity net gain approaches, including through the future incorporation of natural capital measures.</p>	<p>Designing a new woodland creation grant scheme, involving landowners, farmers and key forestry stakeholders in the process. We want landowners to plant trees on their marginal land, while encouraging agroforestry.</p>	<p>Engaging with industry so we develop proposals to drive improvements in animal health. We will work with the devolved administrations and stakeholders to develop policies.</p>	<p>Establishing a cross-government project, led by Natural England, that reviews and updates existing standards for green infrastructure by summer 2019.</p>
<p>Working with MHCLG and development professionals to explore ways in which design can contribute to environmental improvements, leading to better places in which to live and work and a reduced environmental footprint.</p>	<p>Exploring how this new grant scheme could specifically incentivise larger scale afforestation to meet carbon goals and wider environmental benefits at a landscape scale.</p>	<p>Engaging with industry so we develop proposals to drive improvements in animal health. We will work with the devolved administrations and stakeholders to develop policies.</p>	<p>Supporting Local Authorities to assess green infrastructure provision against their new standards.</p>
<p>Predicting stronger new standards for green infrastructure.</p>	<p>With BEIS and MHCLG, working with stakeholders and the Cumbria catchment pioneer, engaging with Local Enterprise Partnerships to identify suitable areas for large scale woodland creation, and promoting Forestry Investment Zones to attract community, commercial and landowner investors.</p>	<p>Publishing a Tree Health Resilience Plan later in 2018 to protect against tree pest and disease and improve resilience of trees to withstand threats.</p>	<p>Working with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to see how our commitments on green infrastructure can be incorporated into national planning guidance and policy.</p>
<p>Exploring ways in which national spatial data and strategies could support and improve the benefits achieved through environmental net gain.</p>	<p>Working with our partners to develop new public/private partnership models of investment for research into the healthy environment, including for research on plant and tree health.</p>	<p>Working with industry and supporting Growth in Britain to increase home grown timber used in England in construction.</p>	<p>Continuing to work with stakeholders to develop and implement a programme to plant one million trees in England's towns and cities by 2022.</p>
<p>Exploring the potential for district protected species licensing to be expanded and include more species, delivering better outcomes for wildlife and a more streamlined process for development.</p>	<p>Working with interested parties to improve and expand the range of tools and guidance that support biodiversity net gain approaches, including through the future incorporation of natural capital measures.</p>	<p>Identifying opportunities for environmental enhancement in all of England's 159 National Character Areas and monitoring indicators of our landscape's character and quality to improve landscapes for people, places and nature.</p>	<p>Introducing new requirements to ensure councils properly consult if they are considering removing street trees.</p>
<p>Exploring, through ongoing MHCLG-led reforms of developer contributions, how tariffs could be used to steer development towards the least environmentally damaging areas and to secure investment in natural capital.</p>	<p>Appointing a national Tree Champion.</p>	<p>Respecting nature in how we use water</p>	<p>Helping children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment.</p>
<p>Determining appropriate locations to pilot a rewilding land bank for rural areas.</p>	<p>Working with the Tree Champion and the Forestry Commission to design and develop a future grant scheme aimed at larger scale afforestation to meet carbon reduction goals and wider environmental benefits.</p>	<p>Making sure that water companies take a leading role in addressing unsustainable abstraction as part of the Water Industry National Environment Programme, due in March 2018.</p>	<p>In partnership with Step Up to Serve, supporting the 2018 Biwill environment-themed year, with design input from young people.</p>
<p>2. Improving how we manage and incentivise land management</p>	<p>Working with the Tree Champion to draw on the Mackinnon review of forestry in Scotland.</p>	<p>Regulating all significant abstractions that have been historically exempt to make sure that they also play a part in protecting the water environment by 2022.</p>	<p>Evaluating progress in increasing young people's environmental social action, including #will campaign activity in 2018, and sharing lessons to sustain good practice.</p>
<p>Working with land managers and others to consider the role of a new environmental land management scheme that encourages broad participation and secures environmental improvements.</p>	<p>Learning from the £15m Natural Flood Management funding to develop our knowledge, identifying and promoting practical solutions for local implementation.</p>	<p>Updating ten abstraction licensing strategies by 2021 and all remaining strategies by 2027 to capture agreed solutions to environmental pressures in catchments.</p>	<p>At the same time, exploring with youth sector partners the potential for piloting a national environment programme with youth groups that encourages use of natural environments through social action. This would aim to reach more young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.</p>
<p>Retaining and further improving targeted support for more complex environmental improvements, backed up by specialist advice.</p>	<p>Amending Planning Practice Guidance to clarify construction and ongoing maintenance arrangements for SUDS in new developments, tightening links with planning guidance for water quality and biodiversity.</p>	<p>Consulting in 2018 on a National Policy Statement for water resources that will streamline the planning process for new large infrastructure schemes, leading to net environmental benefits, as set out in the Industrial Strategy.</p>	<p>Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>
<p>Exploring new and innovative funding and delivery mechanisms as part of a new environmental land management system. There may include private payments for ecosystem services, reverse auctions and conservation covenants.</p>	<p>Improving existing arrangements for managing surface water flooding, and the outcomes delivered by Local Flood Authorities and other risk management authorities, including water companies.</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Drawing together targeted activities to make it easier for people to get involved in improving the natural world and spread the word about environmental issues.</p>
<p>Introducing new farming rules for water</p>	<p>Considering change to the National Planning Policy Framework and Building Regulations in the longer term to encourage SUDS</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and the group led by the NGO Waterwise to improve water efficiency and customer involvement to explore the impact of introducing new water efficiency measures.</p>	<p>Working with partners from the business and voluntary sectors to make these activities happen.</p>
<p>Enforcing regulations for new farming rules for water from April 2018.</p>	<p>Supporting an industry-owned voluntary code of practice to promote consumer and business confidence in measures to reduce the impact of flooding on buildings, and on those who live and work in</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Scoping out an evidence-based behaviour change strategy to enable further actions by individuals, communities, businesses and government beyond 2018.</p>
<p>Reviewing the progress of the new rules after three years.</p>	<p>Putting in place a robust framework to limit inputs of nitrogen-rich fertilisers such as manures, slurries and chemicals to economically efficient levels, and make sure they are stored and applied safely.</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and the group led by the NGO Waterwise to improve water efficiency and customer involvement to explore the impact of introducing new water efficiency measures.</p>	<p>Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>
<p>Working with farmers to use fertilizers efficiently</p>	<p>Introducing clear rules, advice and, if appropriate, financial support.</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Working with partners from the business and voluntary sectors to make these activities happen.</p>
<p>Putting in place a robust framework to limit inputs of nitrogen-rich fertilisers such as manures, slurries and chemicals to economically efficient levels, and make sure they are stored and applied safely.</p>	<p>Working with industry to encourage the use of low-emissions fertiliser, and reviewing the levels of take-up using data from the British Fertiliser Practice Survey.</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Scoping out an evidence-based behaviour change strategy to enable further actions by individuals, communities, businesses and government beyond 2018.</p>
<p>Introducing new farming rules for water</p>	<p>Ensuring that the regulation of pesticides continues to develop with scientific knowledge and is robust and fit for purpose, so as to protect people and the environment. We will maintain this direction after exiting the EU.</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>
<p>Enforcing regulations for new farming rules for water from April 2018.</p>	<p>Putting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) at the heart of a holistic approach, by developing and implementing policies that encourage and support sustainable crop protection with the minimum use of pesticides.</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>
<p>Reviewing the progress of the new rules after three years.</p>	<p>Considering how landscape-scale restoration of wildflower-rich grassland, meadows and heathlands could be part of the Nature Recovery Network to provide better access for people alongside improved habitat for pollinating insects.</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>
<p>Working with industry to encourage the use of low-emissions fertiliser, and reviewing the levels of take-up using data from the British Fertiliser Practice Survey.</p>	<p>Considering delivery options for the Nature Recovery Network over the next two years, as we develop and pilot our new environmental land management system and investigate the use of other new and innovative funding mechanisms.</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>
<p>Introducing new farming rules for water</p>	<p>Evaluating the wider economic and social benefits as we develop the network.</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>
<p>Enforcing regulations for new farming rules for water from April 2018.</p>	<p>Providing opportunities for the reintroduction of native species</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>
<p>Reviewing the progress of the new rules after three years.</p>	<p>Developing and consulting in 2018/19 on a code and best practice guidance for assessing the merits and risks of species reintroduction projects, taking account of their contribution to global and domestic conservation priorities, community engagement and wider social and economic impacts.</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>
<p>Working with industry to encourage the use of low-emissions fertiliser, and reviewing the levels of take-up using data from the British Fertiliser Practice Survey.</p>	<p>Publishing the code and guidance to sit alongside existing international guidelines to inform future funding and consenting decisions on reintroduction projects.</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>
<p>Introducing new farming rules for water</p>	<p>Exploring how to provide incentives for the changes to follow farming case studies.</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>
<p>Enforcing regulations for new farming rules for water from April 2018.</p>	<p>Following the Law Commission report into conservation covenants, assessing the demand and potential for these to secure long-term benefits from investment in nature conservation and other environmental outcomes, as well as the need for safeguards.</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>
<p>Reviewing the progress of the new rules after three years.</p>	<p>Working with landowners, conservation groups and other stakeholders we will review and take forward the Law Commission's proposals for a statutory scheme of conservation covenants in England.</p>	<p>Working with the water industry and its five-year business planning cycles to make sure it puts in place long-term strategies to increase resilience, and manage supply and demand (for further details, please see our strategic report to Ofwat).</p>	<p>Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>

Some key commitments in the plan

STRATEGIES

Flood and Coastal Risk Strategy 2019
Nature Strategy
England Peat Strategy 2018
Review of National Parks and AONBs
Resources & Waste Strategy 2018
Clean Air Strategy
Chemicals Strategy
National Adaptation Programme

POLICIES

Net environmental gain for development, including housing and infrastructure
A new Northern Forest and a programme to plant one million trees in England's towns and cities by 2022
New environmental land management system
New farming rules for water
National Policy Statement for water resources
Nature Recovery Network
Abstraction reform
Make 2019 year of environmental action
Natural Environment Impact Fund

OVERSIGHT AND IMPLEMENTATION

New independent body
Environmental principles to underpin policy
Green Business Council
Pioneers
Strengthen local leadership and governance (towards system operator)
Area Integrated Plans and natural capital approaches
Metrics and environmental reporting, including 2nd National Ecosystem Assessment 2022
Refresh plan at least every 5 years

Biodiversity - Key Areas of the 25 YEP

25 YEP Chapter	Policy group / sub-theme	Policy heading
1. Use and manage land sustainably	1.1 Embed environmental net gain	i. Embed net gain
	1.3 Improve soil health	i. Develop better information on soil health ii. Restoring vulnerable peatlands
	1.5 Reduce flood risk and coastal erosion	i. Expand use of natural flood management solutions
2. Recover nature and enhance landscapes	2.1 Nature recovery	i. Publishing a strategy for nature ii. Develop a Nature Recovery Network iii. Opportunities for the reintroduction of native species v. Improving biosecurity to protect and conserve nature
5. Secure, clean, healthy, productive and biologically diverse oceans	5.2 Achieving good environmental status of our seas whilst allowing marine industries to thrive	ii. Putting in place the remaining marine plans for England. iii. Consulting on the third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones
6. Protect and improve the global environment		ii. Protecting and improving international biodiversity