

25 Year Environment Plan

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment



25 Year Environment Plan

Builds on recent Government reports and policy:

- The Lawton Report – Making Space for Nature 2010
- UK National Ecosystem Assessment 2011
- Natural Environment White Paper 2011
- ➤ **Natural Capital Committee 2012**
 - Help Government better understand how the state of the natural environment affects the performance of the economy and individual wellbeing in England
 - Advise Government on how to ensure England’s “natural wealth” is managed efficiently & sustainably, thereby unlocking opportunities for sustained prosperity & wellbeing



25 Year Environment Plan

- Prime Minister identified the protection and enhancement of the natural environment as a "central priority" for the Government, as part of delivering its manifesto pledge to “be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it”
- At more than 150 pages the Plan is far-reaching
- Touches on topics ranging from plastics recycling, biodiversity and habitats to climate change and air pollution
- Policies largely remain at high level - not yet backed by specific legislation
- Likely that Defra will seek to put together working groups to help steer the implementation of policies

25 Year Environment Plan

Identifies the following 25 year goals:

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



25 Year Environment Plan

The Government also commits to managing pressures on the environment by:

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



25 Year Environment Plan

Some of the key policy areas in the plan include:

- Using a “**natural capital**” approach to protecting and enhancing the environment, by recognising its tangible and non-tangible economic benefits.
- Introducing a principle of “**environmental net gain**” into planning decisions where wider natural capital benefits will be assessed as part of the planning process
- Achieving zero avoidable **plastic waste** by the end of 2042 through a number of initiatives
- A commitment to reducing the risk of harm to people, the environment and the economy from natural hazards including **flooding, drought and coastal erosion**
- A goal to do “what is necessary” **to adapt to the effects of a changing climate.**

25 Year Environment Plan

Planning

- Aims “to embed” a new planning principle of “net environmental gain” in development
- Government to consult on making this requirement mandatory
- Will consider “any exemptions that may be necessary”
- Recently published draft revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been ‘updated to align with the 25 Year Environment



25 Year Environment Plan

Waste Management

- Broad aims:
 - eliminating all avoidable waste by 2050
 - eliminating all avoidable plastic waste by 2040
 - reducing food waste by one fifth by 2025
 - suggested landfill ban of food waste by 2030
- Call for evidence on use of taxes to eradicate single-use plastics
- No reference to Deposit Return System (DRS) but subsequent announcement (cans, glass & plastics)
- Plastic free Supermarket aisles
- Action on waste crimes



25 Year Environment Plan

Landscape and Natural Environment

- Encourage engagement with the landscape by establishing a 'Natural Environment for Health and Wellbeing' program
- Creating or restoring 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the existing protected site network
- Commitment to plant 11 million trees by 2022
- 2019 Year of Green Action - year-long youth-focused promotional campaign to engage people with environmental issues



25 Year Environment Plan

Flood & Water Management

- Update of National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy in 2019 - emphasis on strengthening joint delivery
- Commitment to examine partnership arrangements - aim to attract more non-public sector investment in flood management
- Promote and expand the use of natural flood management (NFM) solutions and sustainable drainage rules will help tackle coastal erosion and reduce flood risk



25 Year Environment Plan

Energy and Climate Change

- Removing dependence on fossil resources
- Ending the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars by 2040
- Achieving an 80% reduction on 1990 carbon emission levels by 2050
- Phasing out coal-fired electricity by 2025
- A new Clean Air Strategy for consultation in 2018



25 Year Environment Plan

Transport

- **Low carbon road transport strategy** - confirmed for 2018 with focus on:
 - electric vehicles
 - self-driving cars
 - better use of data
- Establishing a **regulatory framework** to encourage new modes of transport and business models



25 Year Environment Plan

Broader Delivery Considerations

- Hampshire Commission of Inquiry - a Vision for Hampshire 2050
- Council's wider Strategic Planning role
- Impact on future Waste Strategy
- Opportunities to comment on future national policy development
- Implications for wide range of HCC services

[A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment](#)