

25 Year Environment Plan

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



25 Year Environment Plan

The Plan sets out the following 25-year goals which the Government **aims to achieve**:

- Clean air
- Clean and plentiful water
- Thriving plants and wildlife
- A reduced risk of harm from hazards (e.g. 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

Key policy areas to meet goals:

- A “**natural capital**” approach;
- The establishment of a **green business council**;
- Introducing a principle of “**environmental net gain**” into planning;
- Achieving **zero avoidable plastic waste**;
- A commitment to **address natural hazards**;
- New environmental **land management system**;
- Sustainable **management of soil**;
- **Increase woodland**; and
- A goal to **mitigate and adapt to climate change**.

25 Year Environment Plan

Subsequent government actions & consultations:

- Launch of the National Infrastructure Assessment (July 2018)
- Updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (July 2018)
- Defra consultation on an Environmental Principles and Governance Bill (May-August 2018)
- Defra consultation on Clean Air Strategy 2018 (May-August 2018)
- Commitment to replace the EU's Common Agricultural Policy
- Consulted on 'Tackling the plastic problem: using the tax system or charges to address single-use plastic waste' (March-May 2018)
- Zero emission road transport strategy, 'Road to Zero' (July 2018)



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- UK Climate Change Predictions 2018 (UKCP18) (November 2018)
- Consulting on principle of 'Biodiversity Net Gain' in planning

Waste Management

- Broad aims:
 - eliminating all avoidable waste by 2050
 - eliminating all avoidable plastic waste by 2042
 - 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
- Plastic free Supermarket aisles
- Action on waste crimes

The mechanism for delivery – Resources and Waste Strategy 2018, published 18 Dec 2018.



Waste Management

Resources and Waste Strategy 2018 - Key Themes:

- Sustainable production – Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), encouraging recycled content and eco design.
- Helping consumers take more considered action – extending the life of products through reuse, repair etc.
- Tackling waste crime – reform existing waste regulation and increase enforcement penalties for offences.
- Drive better quantity and quality in recycling, develop UK recycling markets and reduce exports.
- Enough is enough: cut down food waste – new food waste targets and better redistribution of food to those in need.



Waste Management



Key Implications for Local Authorities:

- Expansion of EPR to 'problem' materials
- 30% recycled content requirement in packaging
- Kerbside food waste collections
- Deposit return scheme (DRS) for beverage containers
- Consistent set of mixed recyclables collected at the kerbside
- Improved working relationships between local authorities
- Maintain the quality and extent of local authority collections
- Potential requirement for free green waste collections
- New metrics for waste reporting

Further consultations on EPR, DRS & Consistent Collection

Waste Management

HCC Programmes of Work:

Hampshire Waste Partnership

- Improved 2 tier working
- Whole system costs based
- Improved / increased capture of recyclables
- Infrastructure provision

Waste Prevention Programme

- Food waste reduction
- Bulky waste diversion - reuse

Communications

- Behavioral insight led
- County wide messages



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 2060**, 1 million trees in towns and cities by 2022
- **Improving the status of declining species groups** such as pollinating insects and wildflowers
- **2019 Year of Green Action** - year-long youth-focused promotional campaign to engage people with environmental issues



Landscape and Natural Environment

HCC actions – restoring habitats:

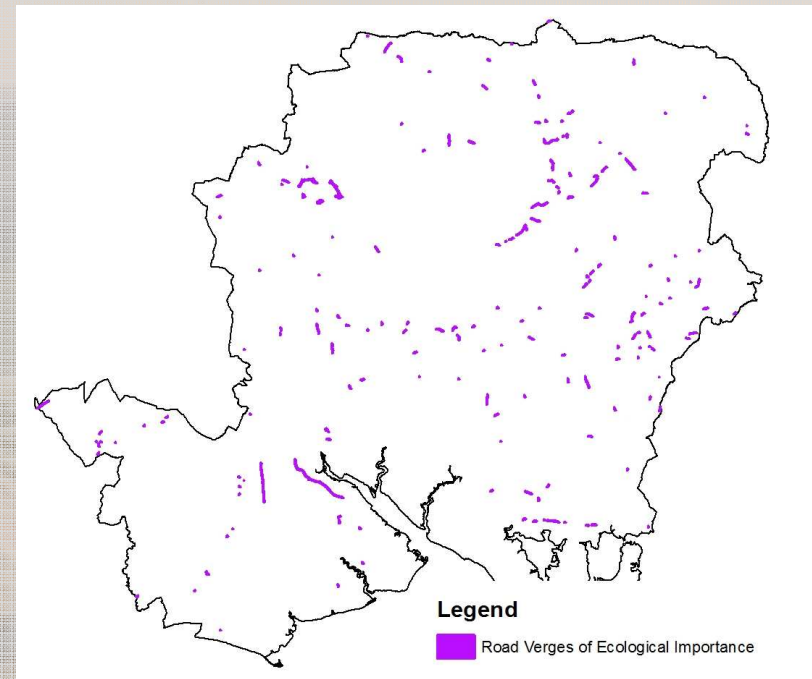
- Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre hosted by HCC has developed an **Ecological Network (EN)** on behalf of the Local Nature Partnership - being adopted by LPAs
- One of the aims of the EN is to reduce declines in biodiversity by achieving **net gain** through planning
- Aims to protect designated sites & priority habitats - identifies opportunities to restore and recreate wildlife rich habitats & corridors to contribute to the national target
- HCC represented on county-wide group which aims to establish shared principles for defining, measuring and



Landscape and Natural Environment

HCC actions – Improving declining species groups:

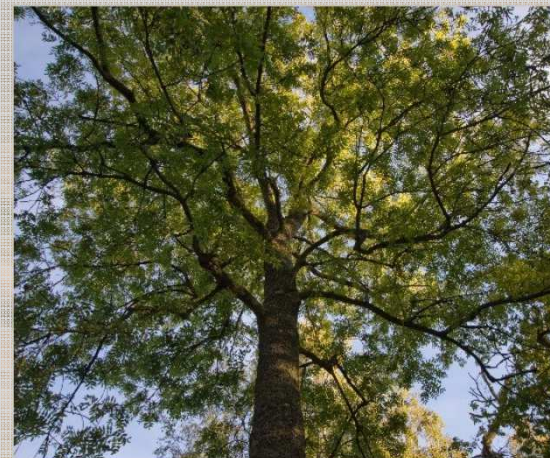
- 205 Road Verges of Ecological Importance (RVEIs) in Hampshire - designated for rare plants, insects & species-rich habitats
- Most in special management and get an early cut and/or a late cut depending on when they flower
- All other road verges now cut only once slightly later in the year. This is beneficial to pollinating insects



Landscape and Natural Environment

HCC actions – Tree planting challenge:

- Ash dieback could kill 70 to 85% of our Ash trees over the next 20 years. Around 80 million in number in the UK - its disappearance will have a major landscape impact
- HCC has a robust strategy for the inspection and management of all HCC trees, including managing the risks as a result of Ash dieback.
- Developing a planting strategy to offset the loss of ash. Tree planting benefits - improving air quality and mitigating against climate change through carbon storage



Landscape and Natural Environment

HCC actions – 2019 Year of Green Action

- YoGA toolkit launched by government in January
- The focus for YoGA activities will be on **connecting** with, **protecting** & **enhancing** nature
- Government partnered with charity, **Step Up To Serve**, to encourage youth social action
- Children and young people at the heart of YoGA
- Range of HCC services can be involved (Countryside, Children's, Public Health, Waste, Environment)
- More detail to follow



Flood & Water Management

- Update of National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) 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 systems
- Potential changes to planning rules will help tackle coastal erosion and reduce flood risk



Flood & Water Management

HCC actions:

- Review of Hampshire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Developing Catchment Plans – prioritisation and action plans
- Review of Hampshire Strategic Flood and Water Partnership Board to achieve improved partnership working
- Active engagement with the EA in debate about operation of Flood Defence Grant in Aid and leveraging private sector funding
- Expanding the use of natural flood management (NFM) solutions - Core member of Natural Flood Management



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Ensuring new developments are flood resilient and decrease flood risk by putting in place more sustainable

Climate change & Air Quality

- Removing dependence on fossil resources
- Ending the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars by 2040
- Achieve 80% reduction on 1990 carbon emission levels by 2050
- Phasing out coal-fired electricity by 2025
- A Clean Air Strategy for consultation in 2018 – final version published 14 January
- Low carbon road transport strategy - 'Road to Zero'



Climate change & Air Quality

HCC actions:

- Commission of Inquiry – collecting evidence from EA & others on Climate Change implications and actions
- Air Quality report (ETE & PH) to Cabinet Nov 2018
- HCC to undertake ‘coordinating role’ on air quality issues within Hampshire
- Delivering measures in Air Quality Management Areas through transport strategies & schemes to reduce congestion (e.g. P&R)
- Reviewing speed management policies – speed limits to support air quality objectives in designated AQ areas

Climate change & Air Quality

HCC actions:

- Implementing HCC Electric Vehicle Charging Point Framework to assist transition to low emission vehicles
- Developing Travel Plans with businesses & schools
- Supporting local bus services to achieve emissions targets
- Improving safety and reliability of road network
- Influence within the planning process to secure financial contributions to deliver infrastructure and promote walking & cycling
- Creating a new internal cross departmental Air Quality Group to manage & oversee work

25 Year Environment Plan

- Aims of the Plan are central to our work - significant implications
- Goes beyond one-off initiatives – wide impacts for service delivery
- Potential for unintended consequences
- Further detail awaited – more consultation due this year
- Corporate approach – Countryside Services, Public Health etc.
- Hampshire Commission of Inquiry - a Vision for Hampshire 2050 – is considering some of these themes and will report in summer 2019

