

25 Year Environment Plan

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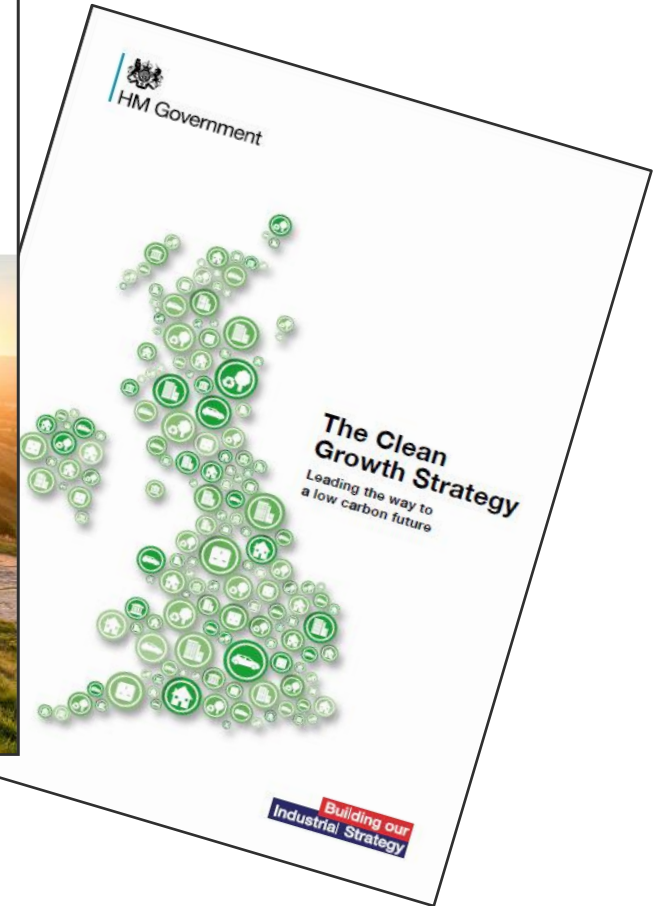
The 25 Year Environment Plan is launched



*"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



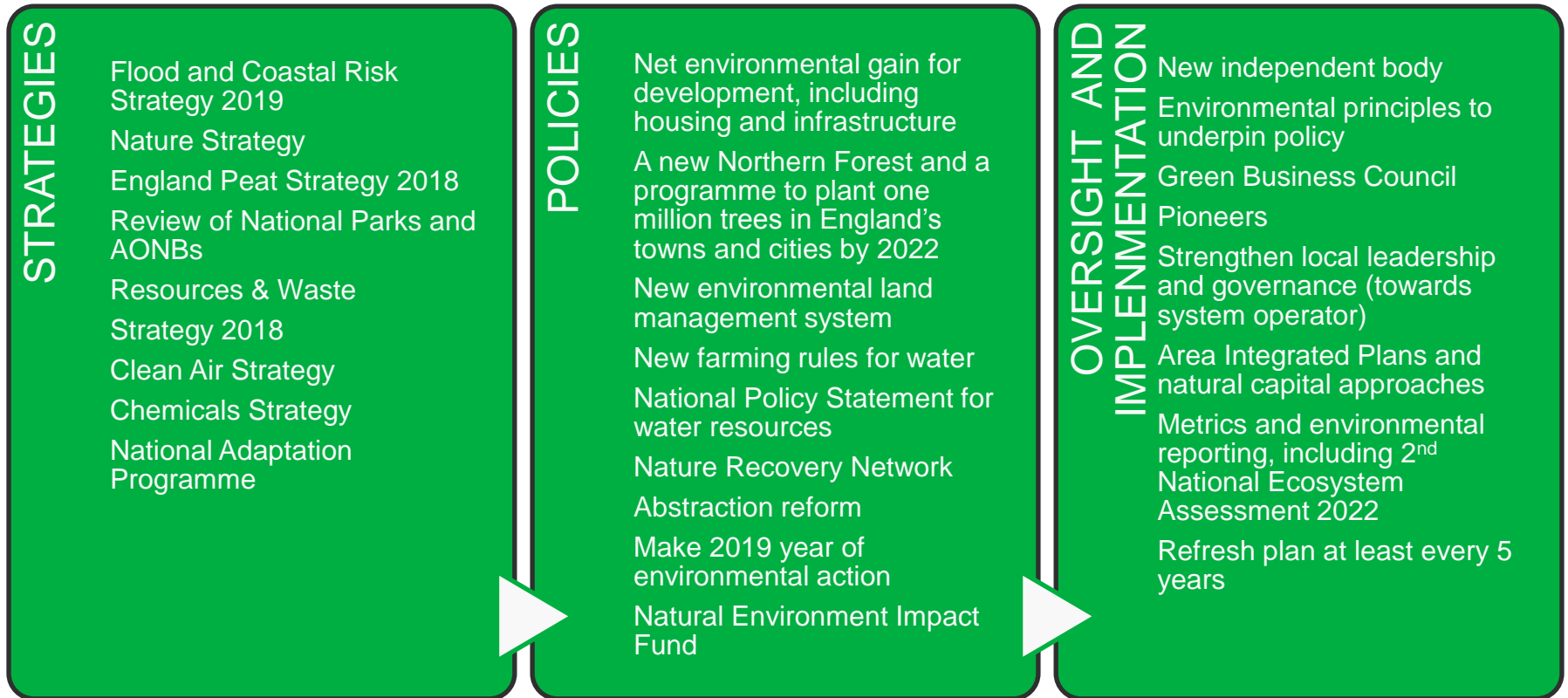
Our policies will focus on:

- 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

Chapter 1: Using and managing land sustainably	4. Focusing on woodland to maximize its many benefits	v. Improving biodiversity to protect and conserve nature	3. Greening our towns and cities
1. Embedding an "environmental net gain" principle for development, including housing and infrastructure	i. Supporting the development of a new Northern Forest	v. Developing plans to reduce the risk from all high priority pathways for invasive non-native species introduction into England.	i. Creating more green infrastructure
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.	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.	Working with partners to raise awareness of invasive nonnative species and the need for strong biosecurity.	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.
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 process, whilst achieving net environmental gains.	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.	Maintaining an alert system to detect high priority invasive nonnative species and implement contingency plans to rapidly eradicate them where feasible.	Continuing our ground-breaking work with Exeter University to update the world-leading Outdoor Recreation Valuation Tool (ORVAs) in 2018.
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.	Promoting the Northern Forest as a key contributor to the "Northern Powerhouse" initiative.	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.	Establishing a cross-government project, led by Natural England, that reviews and updates existing standards for green infrastructure by summer 2019.
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.	ii. Supporting larger scale woodland creation	Publishing a Tree Health Resilience Plan later in 2018 to protect against tree pest and disease and improve resilience of trees to withstand threats.	Supporting Local Authorities to access green infrastructure provision against their new standards.
Producing stronger net standards for green infrastructure.	iii. 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 agri-forestry.	2. Conserving and enhancing natural beauty	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.
Exploring ways in which national spatial data and strategies could support and improve the benefits achieved through environmental net gain.	iv. Supporting the development of a new Northern Forest	i. Revisiting National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	ii. Planting more trees in and around our towns and cities
Exploring ways in which national spatial data and strategies could support and improve the benefits achieved through environmental net gain.	v. Working with the industry and supporting Groundwork in Britain to increase home grown timber used in England in construction.	ii. Commissioning a 21st Century 'Hobhouse' Review of National Parks and AONBs.	iii. Continuing to work with stakeholders to develop and implement a programme to plant one million trees in England's towns and cities by 2022.
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.	vi. 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.	iii. Working with National Park Authorities and AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards to deliver environmental enhancement, including through demonstrator projects, and engaging with communities through their statutory management plans.	iv. Working with partners from the business and voluntary sectors to make these activities happen.
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.	vii. Appointing a National Tree Champion.	iv. 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.	v. Scoping out an evidence-based behaviour change strategy to enable further actions by individuals, communities, businesses and government beyond 2019.
2. Improving how we manage and incentivise land management	viii. 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.	v. Respecting nature in how we use water	4. Making 2019 a Year of Action for the environment
iii. Developing and following a new environmental land management system	ix. Aiming to reach a net zero carbon footprint for the government by 2030.	vi. 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.	i. Helping children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment.
Working with land managers and others to consider the role of a new environmental land management system that encourages broad participation and secures environmental improvements.	x. Learning from the £15m Natural Flood Management funding to develop our knowledge, identifying and promoting practical solutions for local implementation.	vii. 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.	ii. Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action
Retaining and further improving targeted support for more complex environmental improvements, backed up by specialist advice.	xi. Expanding the use of natural flood management solutions	viii. Updating net abstraction licensing strategies by 2021 and all remaining strategies by 2027 to capture agreed solutions to environmental pressures in catchments.	iii. 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.
Exploring new and innovative funding and delivery mechanisms as part of a new environmental land management system. These may include private payments for ecosystem services, reverse auctions and conservation covenants.	xii. 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.	ix. 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.	iv. Working with partners from the business and voluntary sectors to make these activities happen.
ii. Introducing new farming rules for water	xiii. Considering change to the National Planning Policy Framework and Building Regulations in the longer term to encourage SuDS	x. 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).	v. Publishing a new Resource and Waste strategy in 2018 aimed at making the UK a world leader in resource efficiency. It will set out our approach to reducing waste, promoting markets for secondary materials, incentivising producers to design better products and how we can better manage materials at the end of life by targeting environmental impacts.
Enforcing regulations for new farming rules for water from April 2018.	xiv. Improving existing arrangements for managing surface water flooding, and the outcomes delivered by Local Flood Authorities and other risk management authorities, including water companies	xi. 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.	vi. Reforming our Producer Responsibility systems (including packaging waste regulations) to incentivise producers to take greater responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products. This will include exploring extending producer responsibility requirements to plastic products not currently covered by our existing regimes to create a better market for recycled plastic.
Reviewing the progress of the new rules after three years.	xv. Making 'at-risk' properties more resilient to flooding	xii. Taking forward measures that will make significant water savings where practical and cost effective to do so.	vii. Building on our microbeads ban by exploring whether we can ban other problematic materials where suitable alternatives exist.
iii. Working with farmers to use fertilizers efficiently	xvi. 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	iii. We will work with industry to determine appropriate targets for personal water consumption and the measures needed to achieve them.	ix. Analyzing how our microbeads ban by exploring whether we can ban other problematic materials where suitable alternatives exist.
iv. Protecting crops while reducing the environmental impact of pesticides	1. Protecting and recovering nature	Chapter 3: Connecting people with the environment to improve health	x. Publishing a new Resource and Waste strategy in 2018 aimed at making the UK a world leader in resource efficiency. It will set out our approach to reducing waste, promoting markets for secondary materials, incentivising producers to design better products and how we can better manage materials at the end of life by targeting environmental impacts.
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.	i. Publishing a strategy for nature	i. Helping people improve their health and well-being by using green spaces	ii. Reforming our Producer Responsibility systems (including packaging waste regulations) to incentivise producers to take greater responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products. This will include exploring extending producer responsibility requirements to plastic products not currently covered by our existing regimes to create a better market for recycled plastic.
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.	ii. Developing a Nature Recovery Network	ii. Promoting health and well-being through the natural environment	iii. Building on our microbeads ban by exploring whether we can ban other problematic materials where suitable alternatives exist.
Reviewing the UK National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides in 2018.	iii. Providing opportunities for the reintroduction of native species	iii. Establishing a cross-government alliance on environment and health to design and oversee the 'Natural Environment for Health and Wellbeing' programme.	iv. Supporting the development of bio-based, biodegradable and environmentally-friendly plastic through the Bioeconomy Strategy.
Supporting further restrictions on neonicotinoid pesticides, in line with scientific evidence. Any continuing use should be limited and permitted only where the environmental risks are shown to be very low.	iv. 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.	iv. Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school	v. At the consumption stage, we will reduce the amount of plastic in circulation through reducing demand for single-use plastic by:
3. Improving soil health and restoring and protecting our peatlands	v. Publishing the code and guidance to sit alongside existing international guidelines to inform future funding and consenting decisions on reintroduction projects.	i. Helping children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment.	Removing all consumer single use plastic from the central government estate offices.
i. Developing better information on soil health	vi. Expanding how we provide funding, the chance to follow farming case studies.	ii. Developing a programme to support schools and Pupil Referral Units in our most disadvantaged areas in establishing progressive programmes of nature contact for their pupils, which can be opened to schools from autumn 2019.	Extending uptake of the highly successful 5p plastic bag charge to small retailers, exploring whether compulsory options are needed if voluntary agreements prove ineffective.
Working with the industry to update the 2001 guidance on crop establishment and optimal tillage	vii. 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	iii. Supporting more public contact with local natural spaces	Supporting water companies, high street retailers, coffee shops and transport hubs to offer new refill points for people to top-up water bottles for free in every major city and town in England. The water industry plans to create a nationwide network of refill points, and an app to help people find the nearest place to refill their bottles with water free of charge.
Defra will invest at least £200,000 to help develop soil health metrics and test them on farms across the country.	viii. 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.	iv. Supporting a national expansion of care farming by 2022, tripling the number of places to 13m per year for children and adults in England.	

Some key commitments in the plan



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