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Environmental Improvement Plan 2023

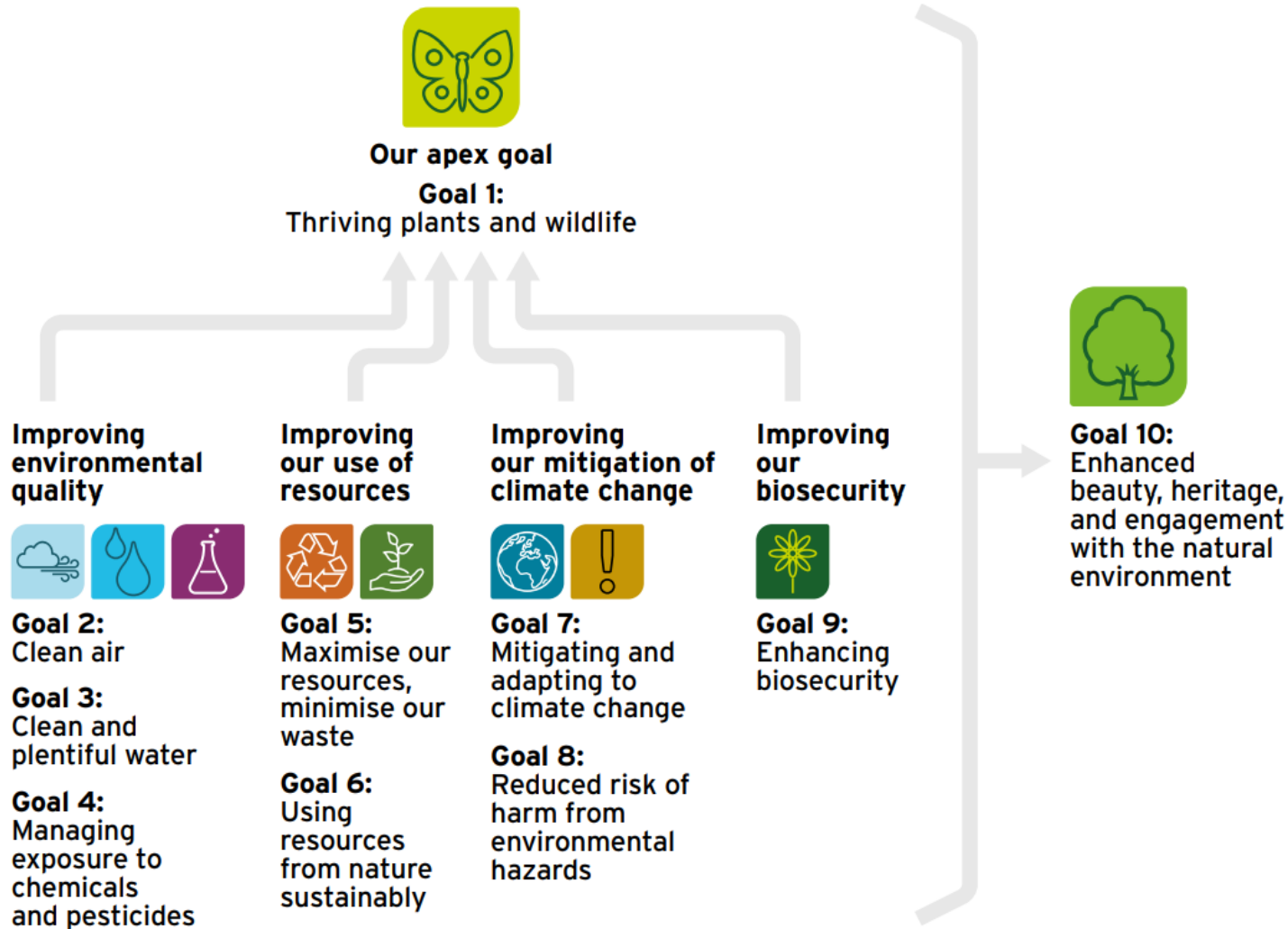


- Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (EIP23) revises the 25-Year Environment Plan (25YEP) as part of our obligations under the Environment Act.
- Alongside new powers and duties from the Environment Act, Agriculture Act and Fisheries Act, it provides a comprehensive delivery plan for the government's approach to halting and then reversing the decline in nature.
- It has been developed in line with international commitments to address the interlinked challenges of global biodiversity loss and climate change.

Our apex goal



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- To reverse the decline in nature, to which all our other goals and targets contribute.
- Our apex targets are to:
 - Halt the decline in species abundance by 2030.
 - Increase species abundance by the end of 2042, so that it is greater than in 2022 and at least 10% greater than in 2030.

Our long-term targets



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Area	Target
Biodiversity	By the end of 2030, we will halt the decline in species abundance.
	By the end of 2042, we will increase species abundance so that it is greater than in 2022 and at least 10% greater than in 2030.
	By the end of 2042, we will restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites, compared to 2022 levels.
	By the end of 2042, we will improve the GB Red List Index for species extinction compared to 2022 levels.
Marine	Ensure that 70% of designated features in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are in favourable condition by 2042, with the remainder in recovering condition.
Woodland	Increase tree canopy and woodland cover to 16.5% of total land area by 2050.
Air quality	By the end of 2040, we will achieve a maximum Annual Mean Concentration Target (AMCT) of 10 micrograms of PM2.5 or below per cubic metre (µg/m ³).
	By the end of 2040, we will reduce population exposure to PM2.5 by 35% compared to 2018 levels.
Water	Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution from agriculture into the water environment by 40% by 31 December 2038, compared to a 2018 baseline.
	Reduce phosphorous loadings from treated wastewater by 80% by 31 December 2038, against a 2020 baseline.
	Halve the length of rivers polluted by harmful metals from abandoned mines by 31 December 2038, against a baseline of around 930 miles (or 1,500km).
	Reduce the use of public water supply in England per head of population by 20% from the 2019 to 2020 baseline reporting year figures, by 31 March 2038.
Resource and waste	By 31 December 2042, the total mass of residual waste excluding major mineral wastes in a calendar year does not exceed 287 kg per capita.

Our interim targets



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Area	Target
Biodiversity	To restore or create 140,000 ha of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 31 January 2028, compared to 2022 levels.
	All SSSIs will have an up-to-date condition assessment by 31 January 2028.
	50% of SSSIs to have actions on track to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.
Marine	For 48% of designated features in MPAs to be in favourable condition, with the remainder in recovering condition, by 31 January 2028.
Woodland	Increase tree canopy and woodland cover by 0.26% of land area (equivalent to 34,000 hectares) by 31 January 2028.
Air quality	<p>By the end of January 2028:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The highest annual mean concentration in the most recent full calendar year must not exceed 12 µg/m³ of PM_{2.5}.• Compared to 2018, the reduction in population exposure to PM_{2.5} in the most recent full calendar year must be 22% or greater.

Our interim targets



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Area	Target
Water	Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution from agriculture to the water environment by 10% by 31 January 2028.
	Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution from agriculture to the water environment by 15% in catchments containing protected sites in unfavourable condition due to nutrient pollution by 31 January 2028.
	Reduce phosphorous loadings from treated wastewater by 50% by 31 January 2028, against a 2020 baseline.
	Construct 8 mine water treatment schemes and 20 diffuse interventions to control inputs of target substances to rivers by 31 January 2028.
	Reduce the use of public water supply in England per head of population by 9% by 31 March 2027 and 14% by 31 March 2032.
	Reduce leakage by 20% by 31 March 2027 and 30% by 31 March 2032
Resource and waste	By 31 January 2028, the total mass of residual waste excluding major mineral wastes in the most recent full calendar year does not exceed 437 kg per capita.
	By 31 January 2028, the total mass of residual waste excluding major mineral waste in the most recent full calendar year does not exceed 25.5 million tonnes.
	By 31 January 2028, the total mass of municipal residual waste in a year does not exceed 333 kg per capita.
	By 31 January 2028, the total mass of residual municipal waste in the most recent full calendar year does not exceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64 kg per capita for food waste. This is equivalent to a 50% reduction from 2019 levels. • 42 kg per capita for plastic waste. This is equivalent to a 45% reduction from 2019 levels. • 74 kg per capita for paper and card waste. This is equivalent to a 26% reduction from 2019 levels. • 10 kg per capita for metal waste. This is equivalent to a 42% reduction from 2019 levels. • 7 kg per capita for glass waste. This is equivalent to a 48% reduction from 2019 levels.

Our cross-cutting delivery plan



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Levers to support delivery:

- Incentives through our new farming schemes
- Land use and planning
- Green finance
- Green jobs and skills
- Green choices
- Environmental principles and governance
- Greening government commitments

Green jobs
Develop green jobs to help us deliver our environmental goals



Green finance

Aim to raise at least £500 million per year of private finance into nature's recovery by 2027, and more than £1 billion by 2030

New farming schemes

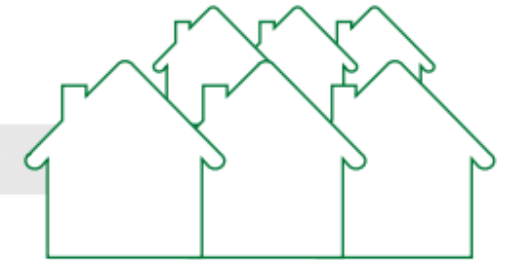
Invest in farmers and land managers to deliver public goods, improve productivity, and animals' health and welfare



Greening Government Commitments
Continue to lead the way by greening our estate and operations



Making green choices
Enable all parts of society to play their part in line with our six principles for green choices



Biodiversity net gain
Make sure developments leave habitats in a better state for wildlife than before



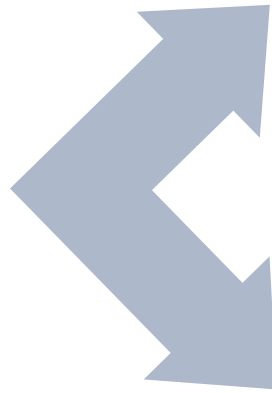
The **Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill** will work with the **Environment Act 2021** to make it easier to plan for the needs of different areas:

- Planning reforms will give more weight to Local Plans, and they will be faster for local authorities to produce.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies will inform Local Plans and help ensure that opportunities for nature recovery are supported by the land use planning system.
- Working with the new requirement for development to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain, this will help the planning system play a more proactive role for nature and the environment.

EIP23 and planning reforms



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EIP will inform the review of the National Planning Policy Framework and introduction of National Development Management Policies

New system of Environmental Outcomes Reports aligned to the EIP, replacing Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment

EIP23 will guide changes under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill

EIP23 actions for planning



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Area	Example commitments relevant to planning and development
Biodiversity	Implementing biodiversity net gain and Local Nature Recovery Strategies
	New outcomes framework for Protected Landscapes
	Supporting local authorities to improve access to green infrastructure using the Green Infrastructure Framework
Woodland	Consulting on protections for 'Long Established Woodland'
Air quality	Environmental Outcomes Reports to minimise impacts from development
	Air Quality Strategy that sets out clear guidance to local authorities
Water	Roadmap on water efficiency in new developments and retrofits, starting with Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010
	Better integrating water and flood policy
Resource and waste	Revised Code of Practice for the sustainable use of soil on construction sites
	Timber in Construction Policy Roadmap increasing timber in construction
	Consistent household and business waste collections
Climate change	Publishing the third National Adaptation Programme
	Reforming local flood risk management planning



- **Land Use Framework** - In the Government Food Strategy we committed to publish a Land Use Framework for England in 2023, which will help to inform how we manage these trade-offs. The Framework will support the delivery of resilient, multifunctional landscapes, which will be dependent on the local context and needs.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies - locally led strategies for nature and environmental improvement established by the Environment Act 2021.

- Each local nature recovery strategy will:
 - agree priorities for nature's recovery
 - map the most valuable existing areas for nature
 - map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals
- Preparation of LNRs to begin across **England from April 2023**.
- **Recently published:** secondary legislation, guidance, consultation response, Responsible Authority appointments and funding, and provision of nationally held data and information.
- **Look out for:** further guidance on interaction with Local Plans

How can local authorities make the best use of the land that they own / manage – and the land that they don't?



Biodiversity Net Gain: requirement for development to achieve at least 10% biodiversity net gain.

- Will become mandatory for most new development in England **from November 2023**.
- Recently published consultation response, guidance on the off-site market, guidance on stacking and announcement of funding for local authorities.
- **Look out for:** Further guidance throughout Spring on securing and managing sites, monitoring, and reporting. We anticipate a consultation on the secondary legislation in late Spring.

Green Infrastructure Framework: framework to support the delivery of green space in urban environments.

- Voluntary tool, published by Natural England in February 2023.

How can local authorities shape the delivery of biodiversity improvements to provide the greatest benefit for their local communities?

Defra Engagement on EIP23 & local delivery



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- 1st March - R9 meeting, with David Hill DG Environment, Defra
- 18th April - ADEPT & LGA Senior Session
- 20th April - SW CEX meeting
- 27th April - ADEPT Environment Board
- 18th May – Further R9 meeting (CPR focused)
- Early May – mid June – individual informal bilateral conversations with a group of representative local authorities

Further engagement suggested:

- Further Regional CEX meetings tbc
- County Councils' Network (CCN) and District Councils' Network (DCN)
- Solace
- Webinars for CEXs and elected members and leaders
- Potential for cross-council meetings with representative denominations/types of local authority
- Further bilateral conversations with local authorities
- Wider local delivery engagement with other public sector bodies

Questions and Feedback:

What can central government do to support local government in the local delivery of the EIP?

What are the barriers to delivering our environmental ambitions? Where are the opportunities for more joined up working?

How is best to engage with your local authority?

How prepared do you feel for the implementation of upcoming planning reforms - especially Biodiversity Net Gain and Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

