

## A Short Guide to

# Environmental protection and sustainable development



## About this guide and contacts

This Short Guide summarises UK government action on environmental protection and sustainable development, how much it costs, recent and planned changes and what to look out for across the government's main business areas and services.



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## Overview



Key facts



About environmental  
protection and  
sustainable development



Key trends:  
environmental  
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sustainable  
development



Government spend  
on environmental  
protection



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## Key facts



**£5.1 billion**

central government spend on environmental objectives in 2015-16.



The government expects to publish its **25-year environment plan** at the end of 2017 or early 2018, and its **Clean Growth Plan** after the 2017 summer recess.



**17%**

of UK air monitoring sites report higher annual nitrogen dioxide levels in the air than permitted under the EU Air Quality Directive; however, limits for other air pollutants are met.



Government expects to convert more than **1,200** pieces of Defra-related (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) EU legislation into UK law through the Repeal Bill.



European Structural and Investment Funds budget of **€5.7 billion** (EU contribution) to be spent on environmental objectives in the UK between 2014 and 2020.



The Office for National Statistics plans to publish metrics for reporting on the UK's progress against the UN Sustainable Development Goals in **autumn 2017**.

# About environmental protection and sustainable development

**Environmental protection** is about maintaining, and recovering where necessary, a healthy natural environment.

It covers issues such as:

Atmospheric pollution and climate change

Air pollution

Biodiversity

Forestry

Soil

Resource efficiency and waste

Flooding and coastal protection

The freshwater environment

Water availability

The marine environment

**Sustainable development** is about balancing environmental, social and economic objectives to deliver long-term equitable growth, which benefits current and future generations.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are:



The UK has global commitments beyond the UN Sustainable Development Goals. For example, the Paris Agreement (December 2015) committed 197 parties including the UK to keep a global temperature rise this century to well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and aims to strengthen global climate change adaptation.

## Note

1 The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) were agreed by the UN in 2015. The Sustainable Development Goals apply to all countries, having been developed from the Millennium Development Goals, which ran from 2000 to 2015 and focused on the poorest parts of the world. More complete descriptions of the Sustainable Development Goals can be found in Appendix One.

## Note

1 The 10 aspects of environmental protection shown are as per those covered in our 2014 [Briefing on Environmental Protection](#).

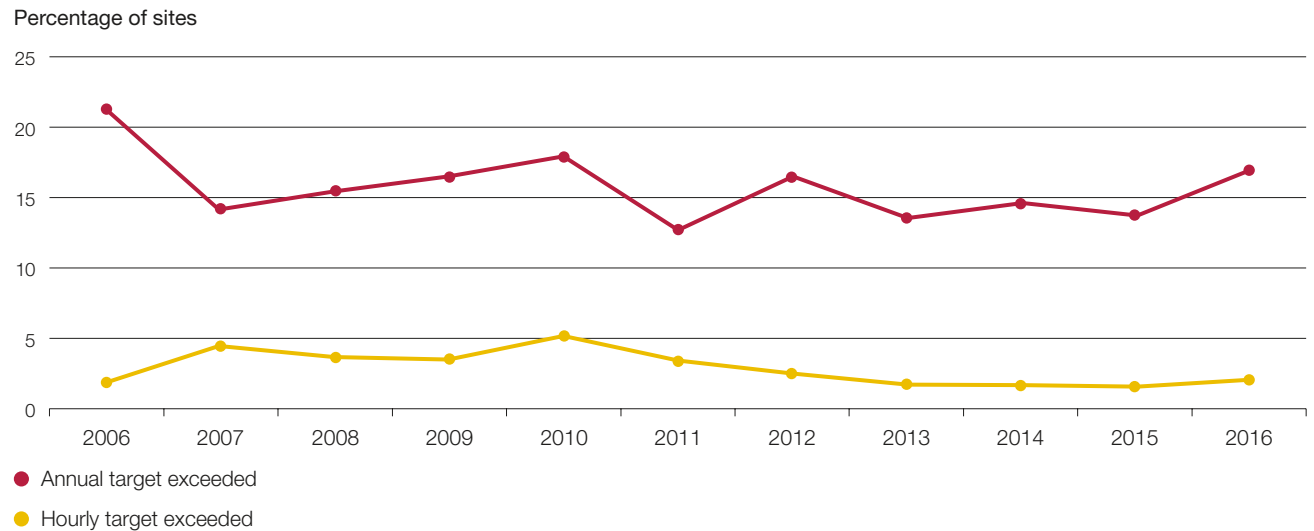
## Key trends: environmental protection

The proportion of air quality monitoring sites reporting higher annual **nitrogen dioxide levels** than permitted under EU Air Quality Directives **has been between 13% and 21%** from 2006 and 2016.

The EU's original deadline for compliance was 2010.

Air quality: Nitrogen dioxide levels in the UK still exceed EU limits expected to be complied with by 2010

Percentage of monitoring sites exceeding EU nitrogen dioxide limit values



### Note

1 Monitoring sites shown are part of the Automatic Urban and Rural Monitoring Network (AURN). EU limit values were set in 2005 with an initial compliance deadline of 2010, and are for annual mean emissions to not exceed 40  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , and for hourly emissions to exceed 200  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for no more than 18 hours over the year.

Source: [Air Quality Annual and Exceedance Statistics](#)

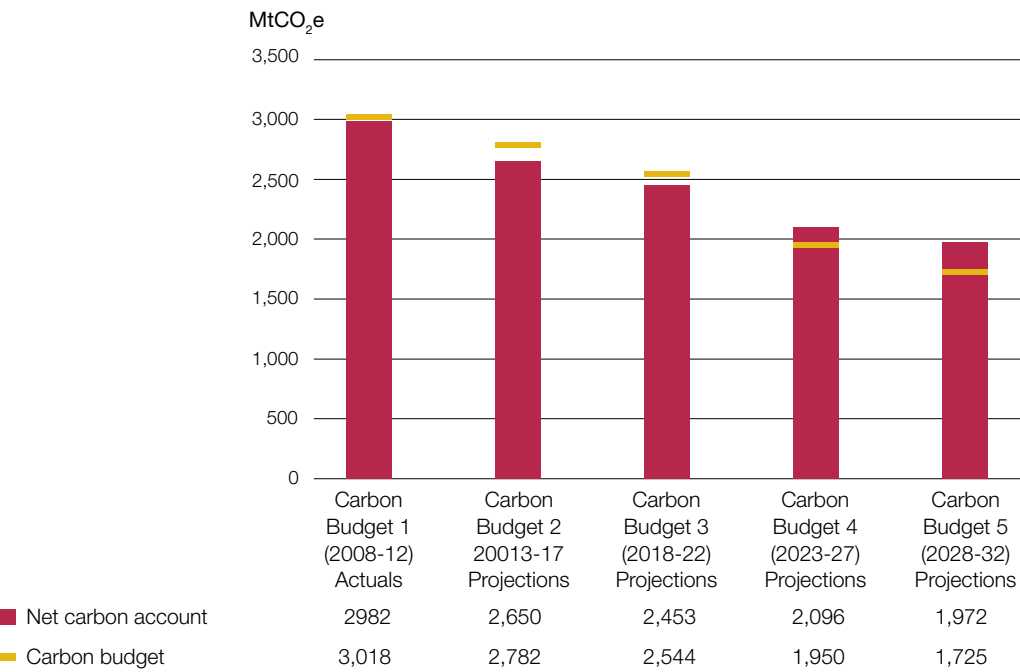
# Key trends: environmental protection

Current emissions projections show that the UK is **not on track to meet the fourth and fifth carbon budgets**.

The Climate Change Act 2008 requires the UK to reduce emissions by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 through a system of five-yearly carbon budgets.

Greenhouse gas emissions: the UK is not on track to meet the fourth or fifth carbon budgets

UK historic/projected annual emissions and carbon budgets



Note

1 Carbon budgets set a target for total emissions over a five-year period. Performance against carbon budgets is measured by the net carbon account, which includes both projected UK allowances under the EU emissions trading scheme and forecasts of emissions in non-traded sectors.

Source: Updated energy and emissions projections: 2016, [www.gov.uk/government/publications/updated-energy-and-emissions-projections-2016](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/updated-energy-and-emissions-projections-2016).

## Key trends: sustainable development

The government does not currently publish a comprehensive assessment of the UK's progress on sustainable development. It stopped publishing the Sustainable Development Indicators in July 2016, citing limited user engagement and the increasing prominence of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in policy development (see page 22 and 26).

Government has not yet finalised its approach to measuring progress against the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In the meantime, the National Well-being Indicators are a proxy for progress on sustainable development, as they cover environmental, social and economic issues.

Of the 41 measures used by the Office for National Statistics to assess national well-being, 15 improved in the year to April 2017. Only one measure, on the levels of household recycling, deteriorated in the year.

### National Well-being indicators: one-year change as at April 2017



Source: [Measuring National Wellbeing dashboard](#)



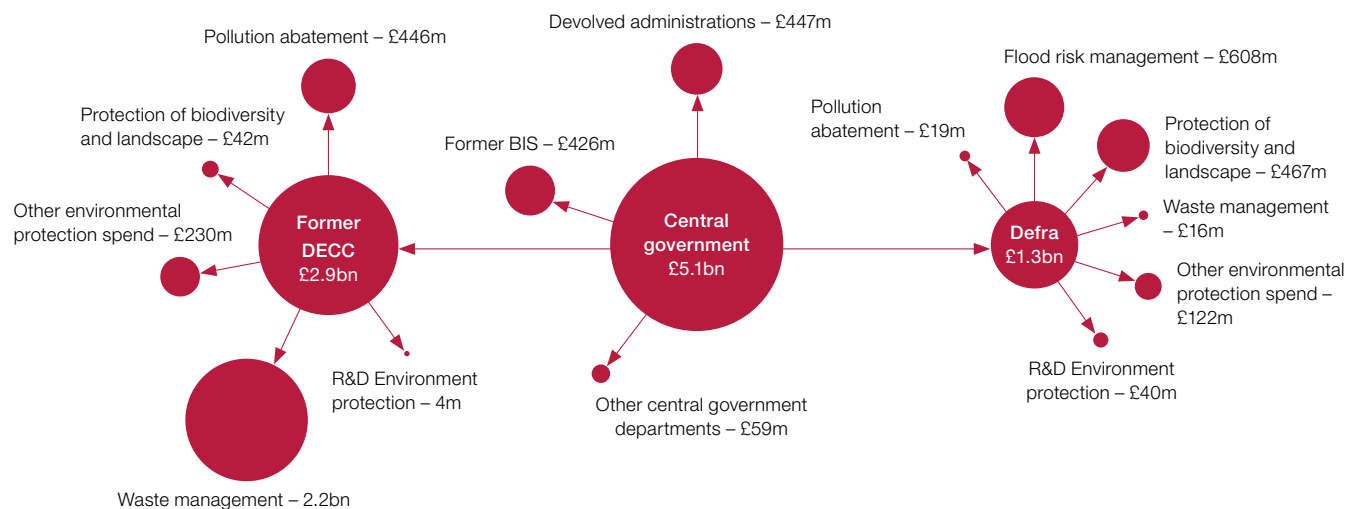
# Government spend on environmental protection

Measuring expenditure on environmental protection is not straightforward due to the range of government activity and departments involved. Government reporting against an international framework for classifying government expenditure gives a figure of £5.1 billion of central government spend on environmental objectives in 2015-16. In addition to central government, UK local government reported £6.4 billion of spend on environmental objectives, primarily in relation to waste management.

Two departments are responsible for most of this spend: the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (£1.3 billion), and the former Department of Energy & Climate Change (£2.9 billion (now part of the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Waste management spend by this department relates primarily to management of historic coal and nuclear sites).

There are no available statistics for expenditure on sustainable development. The government's ambition is to embed sustainable development into all of its activities, so it would be difficult to disaggregate.

## Spend by central government against environmental objectives, 2015-16



### Notes

- 1 The data used to produce this chart classifies public expenditure according to its main objective: other programmes not included in the above can have environmental protection as a secondary objective. The data is unaudited and has not been agreed to Departmental Accounts. 2015-16 is the most recent year for which this presentation of spend is available. Figures used represent both revenue and capital expenditure.
- 2 International Climate Fund expenditure (£5.8 billion between 2016-17 and 2020-21 across DfID, BEIS and Defra) is not included in these figures.
- 3 Data may not sum due to rounding.
- 4 BIS: former Department for Business Innovation and Skills; DECC: former Department of Energy and Climate Change.

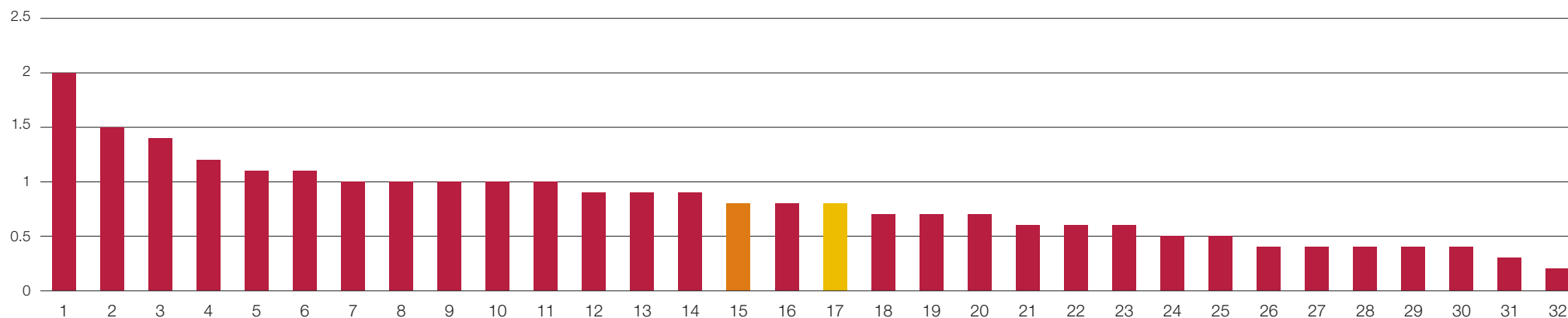
Source: HM Treasury, Country and Regional Analysis 2016

## Other countries' spend on environmental protection

UK expenditure on environmental protection was 0.8% of GDP in 2015. This was in line with the average for the 28 countries of the European Union.

### 2015 European government expenditure on environmental protection

Percentage of GDP

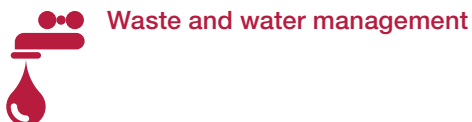


#### Notes

- 1 = Malta, 2 = Greece, 3 = Netherlands, 4 = Hungary, 5 = Czech Republic, 6 = Luxembourg, 7 = France, 8 = Italy, 9 = Romania, 10 = Slovenia, 11 = Slovakia, 12 = Belgium, 13 = Spain, 14 = Norway, **15 = EU-28 average**, 16 = Bulgaria, **17 = United Kingdom**, 18 = Estonia, 19 = Latvia, 20 = Switzerland, 21 = Germany, 22 = Poland, 23 = Iceland, 24 = Croatia, 25 = Lithuania, 26 = Denmark, 27 = Ireland, 28 = Cyprus, 29 = Austria, 30 = Portugal, 31 = Sweden, 32 = Finland
- The data used to produce this chart are obtained by Eurostat from European countries through the OECD/Eurostat Joint Questionnaire on Environmental Protection Expenditure and Revenues. This uses the UN Classifications of the Function of Government (COFOG) framework to classify government spend.
- The EU-28 are the 28 countries of the EU, including the UK. The chart above also includes three countries not in the EU but who trade within the single market: Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

Source: European Commission – Eurostat, [Government expenditure on environmental protection 2015](#)

## Key themes from NAO reports



### Waste and water management

#### Waste and recycling review

October 2016

- Memorandum supporting the Environmental Audit Committee's review of Defra's 2010 withdrawal of provisionally allocated PFI credits from seven out of 18 local authority landfill diversion projects.
- Reviews the modelling used by Defra to reach its decisions.

#### Review of the Thames Tideway Tunnel

March 2017

- Examines the evidence base supporting the decision to proceed with the Thames Tideway Tunnel as well as progress achieved to date.
- The Thames Tideway Tunnel is planned to run 25 kilometres from Acton to Abbey Mills.

#### Internal drainage boards

March 2017

- Internal drainage boards (IDBs) are local independent public bodies responsible for managing water levels in low-lying areas where there is a special drainage need and contributing to flood risk management.
- This report focuses on governance and oversight arrangements, processes for raising concerns, and the potential for conflicts of interest.



### Government approach to environmental issues

#### Environmental and sustainability metrics

October 2015

- Overview of the range of metrics that government uses to assess and report on sustainable development and environmental protection.
- Comparison of metrics to good practice principles for a performance management framework.

#### Early review of the Common Agricultural Policy Delivery Programme

December 2015

- Examines efforts to develop new systems and processes to support the Common Agricultural Policy in England.
- Found that ineffective collaboration between responsible bodies undermined their ability to deliver a successful rural payments service.

#### Departmental sustainability overview: Department for Transport (DfT)

April 2016

- Examines the actions and role the DfT has in supporting environmental protection and sustainable development.

#### Sustainability in the Spending Review

July 2016

- Examines how the 2015 Spending Review incorporated environmental issues into its decision-making process.
- This includes assessments of significance for environmental objectives, the effectiveness of Spending Review design and implementation, and the potential impacts of decisions made.



### Energy policy

#### Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation

April 2016

- Found that the design of the Green Deal not only failed to deliver any meaningful benefit but also increased suppliers' costs in meeting their obligations through the ECO scheme.

#### Carbon capture and storage

January 2017

- Assesses the second competition for carbon capture and storage in the UK.
- This scheme was cancelled in 2015 and failed to achieve value for money.

#### Nuclear power in the UK

July 2016

- Government wants nuclear power to form an important part of a 'balanced' mix of technologies, to help meet the UK's 2050 decarbonisation target at lowest cost.
- This report provides background on the value for money risks that government will need to manage.
- Our subsequent June 2017 report reviews the Hinckley Point C deal.

## Exiting the European Union

Much of the UK's environmental law and policy is derived from the EU and subject to EU enforcement. In addition much of the UK's spending in this area comes from the EU budget. Leaving the EU means that this Parliament will have an opportunity to shape a long-term approach to UK environmental policy and how it is funded.

### Implications for environmental legislation

Much of the UK's environmental law is derived from European legislation. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs has assessed that there are more than 1,200 core pieces of EU legislation and national implementing legislation directly applicable to its work. Of all the EU legislation expected to be converted through the Repeal Bill, around 25% relates to Defra policy areas. The government has stated that it expects the Repeal Bill to ensure that the whole body of existing EU environmental law continues to have effect in UK law, either as it stands or in a manner that ensures that it works as a UK regime.

Significant pieces of EU legislation and regulation relevant to environmental protection and sustainable development include:



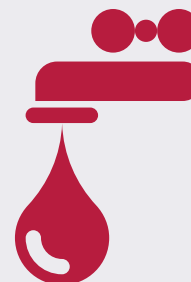
The **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**, which governs payments to farmers and other rural landowners and organisations.



The **Environmental Impact Assessment Directive**, mandating that significant public and private sector projects carry out environmental impact assessments as part of the planning permission process.



The **Habitats Directive and the Wild Birds Directive**, which support nature conservation through the classification of sites and species of conservation interest.



Regulations and directives relating to chemicals, air quality, water quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

The 2017 Queen's Speech indicated that the government will bring forward legislation to establish new national policies on agriculture and fisheries.

# Exiting the European Union

## Implications for environmental funding

Exiting the EU could affect the scale and nature of funding for environmental protection. Between 2014 and 2020 European Structural and Investment Fund (funds to support economic development across all EU countries, in line with the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy) budgets allocated an average of £720 million a year (nominal prices at 2017 exchange rate) on environmental objectives in the UK. Spending on environmental objectives represents around 35% of the EU budget spent through structural funds in the UK. The government has guaranteed the same cash total in funding for farm support until the end of the Parliament.

## Wider issues

Beyond these issues, the negotiations to leave the EU and to establish trade deals with other countries may have implications for the prominence of the environment in decision-making processes and the extent to which the UK is able to determine its own future environmental approach.

Further details of the implications of leaving the EU for the two main departments associated with environmental protection and sustainable development (Defra and BEIS) are available in our Short Guides to these departments, available from the NAO website.

Theme	Budget 2014–2020	Implied annual EU contribution
Environment protection and resource efficiency	€2,185m	£275m
Climate change adaptation and risk prevention	€1,939m	£244m
Low-carbon economy	€1,604m	£202m
<b>Total</b>	<b>€5,728m</b>	<b>£720m</b>

### Notes

- 1 Implied annual contribution has been calculated at the exchange rate of July 2017 of €1 = £0.88. Sterling figures are indicative only: the seven-year budget is not required to be allocated evenly across the period, and its value will vary according to the exchange rate.
- 2 In addition to the funding from the EU, the UK agreed to provide a further €2,760 million (equivalent to £347 million/year) of national co-financing to the environmental themes supported by the structural funds.
- 3 Funding against non-environmental themes, such as Competitiveness of SMEs and Research and Innovation, may also contribute to environmental objectives, particularly where these funds are managed by Defra.
- 4 The European Structural and Investment Funds represent more than half of the EU budget. EU funding to the UK outside of the European Structural and Investment Funds can also contribute to environmental objectives; 30% of basic payments to farmers under 'pillar 1' of the Common Agricultural Policy are tied to environmental criteria.
- 5 Data may not sum due to rounding.

Source: [European Structural and Investment Funds Data](#)



## Environmental protection



Departmental  
responsibilities for  
environmental protection



Major programmes  
and policies



Recent and planned  
developments



What are the things  
in Environmental  
protection policy  
to look out for?



# Departmental responsibilities for environmental protection

**Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

Waste, water, fisheries, flooding, farming, forestry, air quality, soil (including peatlands) and protected landscapes.

**Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy**

Low-carbon energy, carbon budgets, green finance and research.

**Department for International Development**

Investment in environmental protection and climate change adaptation in developing countries.

**Department for Exiting the European Union**

Withdrawal from the EU, including transfer of all existing environmental law into UK law.

**Department for Transport**

Promotion of low-emission transport, including both carbon and other particulate emissions.

**HM Treasury and  
HM Revenue & Customs**

Environmental taxation.

**Cabinet Office**

Procurement policies and framework.

**Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government**

Planning framework and building regulations.

**Devolved administrations**

The devolved authorities have responsibility for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, the environment and planning within their country, with Defra or other government departments performing this role for England as above.

**All departments**

Assessment of the impact of proposed projects on the environment, including where direct quantification is not possible. *Green Book* guidance for the assessment and evaluation of government projects specifically highlights the need to consider impacts on air and water quality, land use, noise pollution, and waste production, recycling and disposal.



## Major programmes and policies

### Air quality: UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations

Plan to reach compliance on nitrogen dioxide concentrations with air quality targets set by the EU.

### Flood Re

2016 scheme to improve flood insurance affordability and flood risk management.

### Thames Tideway Tunnel

£4.2 billion project for a 25 kilometre sewer tunnel to reduce sewage overflows into the Thames, scheduled to be complete by 2024.

### Basic Payment Scheme and Rural Development Programme schemes

Administration of EU Common Agricultural Policy funds and national co-financing to support the rural economy. In 2016-17 Defra reported £1,826 million Basic Payment Scheme expenditure in England, plus £347 million from the European Commission and £68 million Exchequer funding for rural development.

### Flood and coastal erosion risk management

£2.5 billion government investment to reduce the risks of flooding and coastal erosion between April 2015 and March 2021. This will be spread across 1,500 schemes delivered by the Environment Agency, local authorities, internal drainage boards and local communities.

**Defra**

### Litter strategy for England

Initiatives up to 2020 to monitor and reduce the amount of litter dropped, including supporting rubbish collection and recycling, supporting better packaging, introducing new powers to require councils to remove roadside litter and prosecuting offenders.

### North Sea Decommissioning

Work to develop new solutions to lower the cost of decommissioning oil and gas wells in the North Sea. Decommissioning may last up to 40 years, with an estimated cost of £60 billion.

**BEIS**

### Smart meters

The Department's latest cost benefit analysis (August 2016) estimates that smart metering implementation (including to all homes and small businesses by 2020) will cost £11 billion (discounted and in 2011 prices) up to 2030.

### Nuclear and coal legacies

Management of the nuclear and coal legacies to ensure protection of the public and the environment. In 2016-17 BEIS reported outturn of £275 million against this objective.

### Contracts for Difference and Energy Innovation Programme

Support to renewable energy through CfD auctions and projects to encourage innovation. BEIS announced £28 million of new innovation programme projects in 2016-17.

### Green Investment Bank

Privatisation of the Green Investment Bank through a £2.3 billion deal agreed in April 2017.





# Recent and planned developments



## 25-year plan for the environment

First announced in 2015 as part of the government's aspiration **'to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than it inherited'**.

Aims:

- Ensure the environment is appropriately maintained and improved.
- Develop tools and structures for the systematic valuation of nature.
- Increase collaboration between central and local governments, NGOs and the private sector.

The decision to leave the EU delayed the planned publication date of summer 2016.

The 2017 Conservative Party manifesto maintained a commitment to delivering a 25-year environment plan, and the government expects to publish this **at the end of 2017 or early 2018**.

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP has asked the Natural Capital Committee to advise **by the end of September 2017** on what the Plan should aim to achieve, how it should seek to do so, and the necessary conditions for success.



## Air quality

A High Court ruling in November 2016 found that the 2015 **UK air quality plan to reduce nitrogen dioxide emissions did not meet legal requirements** under the 2008 EU Air Quality Directive.

The Directive set a deadline for compliance with air quality standards of 2010, with scope for competent authorities to apply five-year extensions.

The 2015 plan did not envisage the UK meeting the EU targets for nitrogen dioxide levels until 2020, with cities such as London as late as 2025.

The High Court ruled that this was not compliant with the requirement to meet air quality targets as soon as possible.

A revised UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations was published on 26 July 2017.



## Clean Growth Plan

Under the Climate Change Act, the government is required to set and meet five-yearly carbon budgets.

**The UK is not on track** to meet the fourth (2023–2027) and fifth (2028–2032) budgets unless projected emissions are reduced. BEIS will address this shortfall through publishing a **'Clean Growth Plan'**.

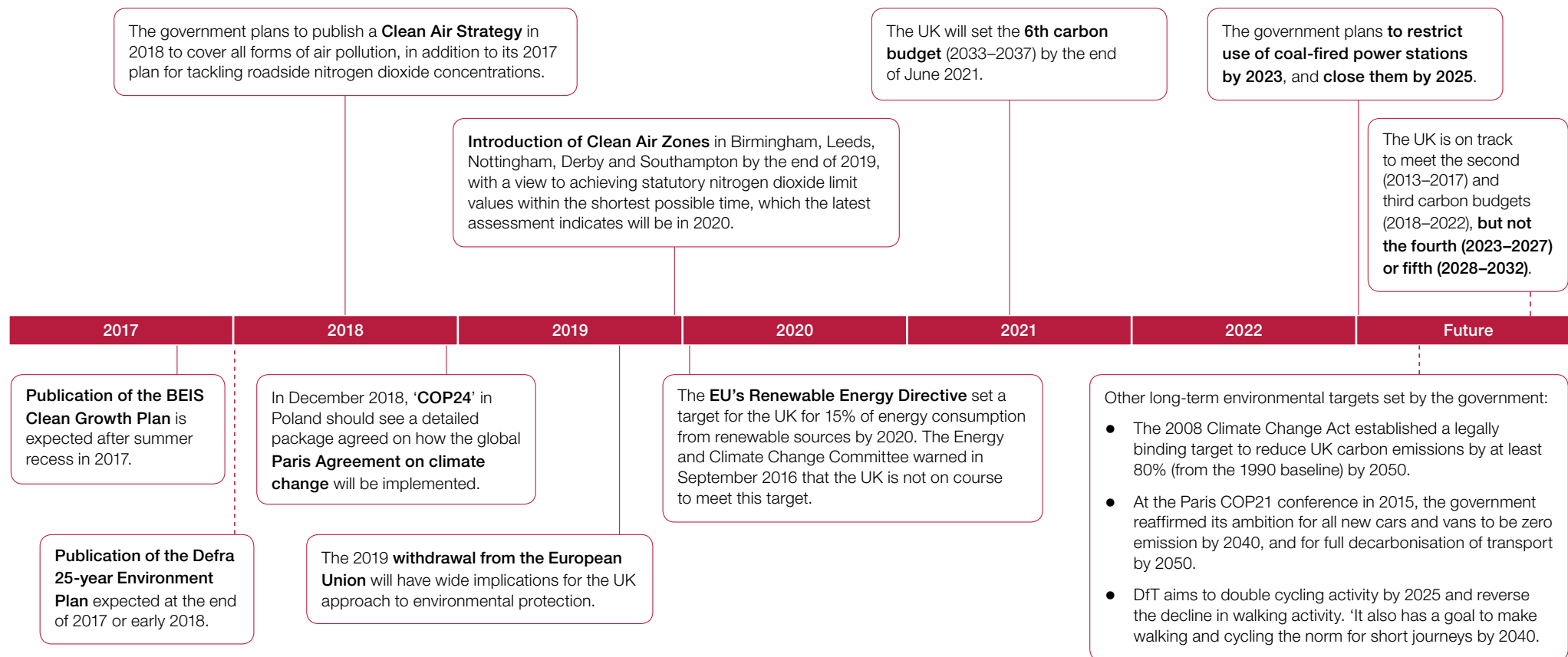
The plan is expected to establish how the UK will:

- stimulate economic growth while reducing carbon emissions over the 2020s;
- meet its fourth and fifth carbon budgets; and
- stay on track for its 2050 target to reduce emissions by at least 80% on 1990 levels.

The Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry, Claire Perry MP, stated in June 2017 that the Clean Growth Plan will be published after the summer recess.



# What are the things in environmental protection policy to look out for?



## Note

1 See slide 24 for further things to look out for on sustainable development.

Source: National Audit Office



## Sustainable Development



Departmental  
responsibilities for  
sustainable development



Major programmes  
and policies



Recent and planned  
developments



What are the things  
to look out for?



# Departmental responsibilities for sustainable development

## All departments

The government expects all government departments to embed consideration of sustainability across their activities, so that it is 'mainstreamed' into the way they do business

### Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Environmental protection, supporting the embedding of sustainable development across government, climate change adaptation.

### Department for International Development (DfID)

International action on sustainable development, including lead role on UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Low-carbon energy, carbon budgets, fuel poverty, sustainable economic growth, green finance and research.

### Department for Transport

Promotion of low-emission transport, to improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions.

### Ministry of Justice

The criminal justice system.

### Department of Health and Department for Work & Pensions

Health and social care.

### Department for Education

Education.

### Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Department for International Trade, Ministry of Defence

Support to DfID in international action on sustainable development.

### HM Treasury

Requirements for annual sustainable development reporting, guidance on appraising projects and policies, including on environmental and social impacts.

### Cabinet Office

Support for embedding sustainability throughout government.



## Major programmes and policies

### Greening Government Commitments

Targets for departments to reduce their estate waste, water use and emissions by 2020, and to promote sustainable procurement.

### National Adaptation Programme

Plan to support the government, industry and communities in preparing for future extreme weather conditions, including investing £2.5 billion over six years to improve flood defences.

### Sustainability reporting guidance for annual reports

Organisations are required to report on how sustainability is embedded within corporate decision-making and performance.

### Green Book

Guidance for the evaluation of proposed policies and programmes requiring clear description and quantification of environmental impacts, including monetisation where possible. Government plans to incorporate guidance on Natural Capital (see Slide 22).

## Embedding sustainability in government

The government has stated an intention to **embed sustainability** across all its activities, rather than introducing a discrete sustainability programme.

### Economic Development Strategy

DFID is supporting developing countries to harness trade, inclusive growth and investment opportunities in order to eradicate poverty and help countries overcome the need for aid.

## International

### World Humanitarian Summit

DFID reports that it is leading reform of the international humanitarian system, following the first World Humanitarian Summit held in 2016.

### Humanitarian support

DFID provides humanitarian assistance in response to sudden onset and protracted crises.

### CDC Group

UK's Development Finance Institution wholly owned by the UK government with a portfolio of investments valued at £3.8 billion (year end 2016).

### International Climate Finance

£5.8 billion between 2016-17 and 2020-21 across DFID, BEIS and Defra to support carbon reductions and increased resilience in developing countries.

### Cities and Infrastructure for Growth

DFID programme to support sustainable urban growth.



# Recent and planned developments



## Natural capital

Natural capital is the UK's stock of natural assets such as forests, minerals, rivers, oceans.

In 2015 the government committed to incorporating natural capital into the **Green Book guidance on project appraisal**, and has asked the Natural Capital Committee to input into the 25-year environment plan.

## Natural accounting

The government has committed to **incorporating natural capital into the national accounts by 2020**, aiming to allow for it to be monitored, protected and improved.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) intends to expand the national accounts to include more natural capital assets including estimates for maintenance and restoration costs.

Its latest estimates point to a decline in the value of some natural capital assets.

## Natural Capital Committee

Re-instated in January 2016, with a remit through to 2020 to advise on the development of the 25-year environment plan.

In the past year, the committee has:

- produced a 'how to do it' guide (a best practice guide for using natural capital approaches in making decisions about the natural environment); and
- published advice on how to value natural capital and determining long-term outcomes and objectives for the 25-year environment plan.



## Metrics for the Sustainable Development Goals

The ONS is responsible for developing metrics to measure progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Consultation

ONS has a deadline of autumn 2017 to report on the Goals to the UN.

A 12-week consultation began in June 2017 to seek views on the approach to the measurement and reporting of UK progress against the global indicators that underpin SDGs.

## Environmental Audit Committee findings

In April 2017 the Environmental Audit Committee published a report on the implementation of SDGs in the UK.

While commending the ONS's efforts, the report:

- concluded that "progress on developing measurement frameworks for Goals is too slow"; and
- expressed concern that the government appeared to have changed its mind about the ONS developing a set of national indicators, as government now appears to be looking at integrating the indicators into Single Departmental Plans.

Recent and planned developments *continued*

Adapting to climate change

The *Climate Change Risk Assessment* (CCRA) was published by government in January 2017 and identified six ‘priority areas’ where action is recommended between 2017–2022:

- 1
- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure
- 2
- Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures
- 3
- Risk of shortages to public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry
- 4
- Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity
- 5
- Risks to domestic and international food production and trade
- 6
- New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals

The National Adaptation Programme (NAP) captures the actions being taken by government, businesses and society to address these risks. The second National Adaptation Programme is due for publication in 2018.

Sustainable development in the devolved nations



Wales

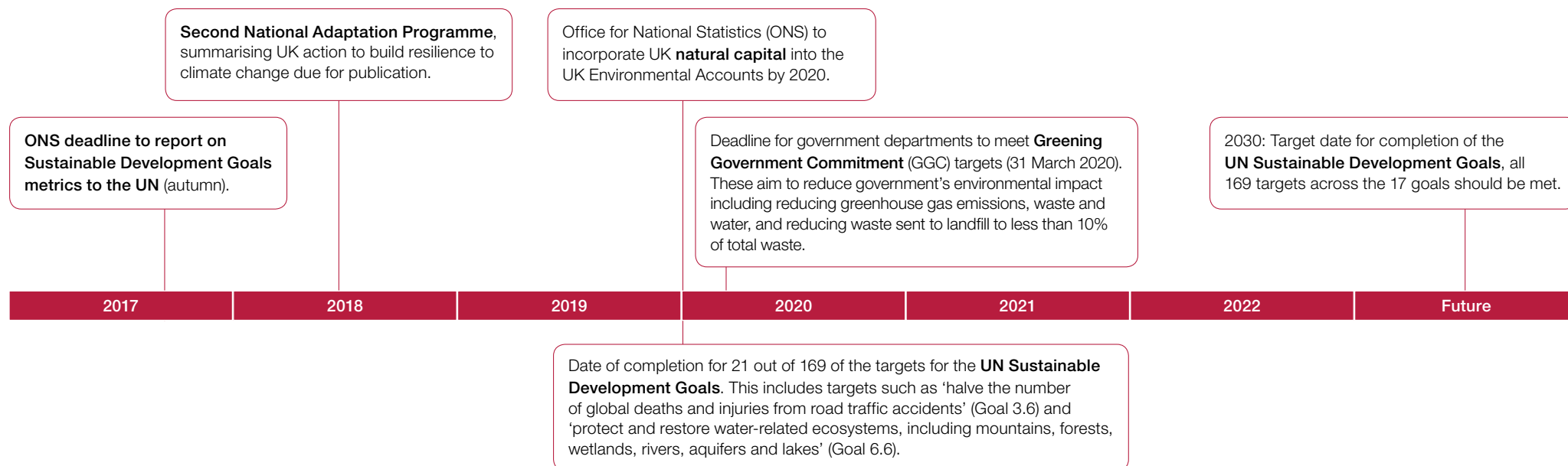
The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 requires public bodies to act in a sustainable way and to consider long-term impacts in policy-making. In 2016 Wales appointed a Future Generations Commissioner to act as a “guardian for future generations”.

Scotland and Northern Ireland

- The concept of sustainability has informed recent sectoral plans:
- **The Scottish Land Use Strategy (March 2016)** contains ‘Principles for Sustainable Land Use’ to guide policy and decision-making.
  - **The Sustainable Agricultural Land Management Strategy for Northern Ireland (October 2016)** seeks to improve the resilience of the agricultural sector through sustainable principles.



## What are the things to look out for?



### Note

1 See slide 18 for further things to look out for on environmental protection, including on climate change mitigation.

Source: National Audit Office





## Appendices



Appendix One –  
The UN Sustainable  
Development Goals



Appendix Two –  
Manifesto commitments  
and the Queen's Speech

# Appendix One – The UN Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals were agreed by the UN in 2015 as targets for 2030. The 17 goals are as below, full details of the targets under each goal are available [online](#).



## 1 No poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

## 2 Zero hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

## 3 Good health and well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

## 4 Quality education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

## 5 Gender equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

## 6 Clean water and sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

## 7 Affordable and clean energy

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

## 8 Decent work and economic growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

## 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.

## 10 Reduced inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries.

## 11 Sustainable cities and communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

## 12 Responsible consumption and production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

## 13 Climate action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

## 14 Life below water

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

## 15 Life on land

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

## 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

## 17 Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.



## Appendix Two – Manifesto commitments and the Queen’s Speech

### Environmental commitments in the Conservative Party Manifesto and 2017 Queen’s Speech included:

- producing a **comprehensive 25-year environment plan**;
- continuing to **take a lead in global action against climate change** and environmental protection;
- reducing carbon emissions through **developing the shale industry** and upholding rigorous environmental protections around this;
- ensuring the UK maintains its position as a **global leader in offshore wind** through supporting the development of wind projects in Scotland;
- investing £600 million by 2020 to ensure that **almost every car and van in Britain is zero-emission by 2050**;
- **leaving the London Fisheries Convention** and working with the fishing industry, marine scientists and devolved administrations to preserve and increase fish stocks;
- **planting one million trees**, keeping public forests in trust for the nation and provide stronger protection for ancient woodland;
- delivering on the commitment to **improve natural flood management**;
- working with farmers, food producers, devolved administrations and environmental experts across Britain to devise a **new agri-environment system**;
- **committing the same cash total in funds for support to UK farmers** until the end of the Parliament as provided by the Common Agricultural Policy after the UK withdraws from the EU;
- helping farmers to deliver environmental improvements on a landscape scale through helping Natural England to expand their **provision of technical expertise**;
- **maintaining existing protections on designated land** when building new homes;
- **doing more to reduce litter**, including by supporting comprehensive rubbish collection and recycling, supporting better packaging and taking new powers to force councils to remove roadside litter, and prosecuting offenders;
- improving the **energy efficiency of existing homes** by upgrading all fuel-poor homes to EPC Band C by 2030;
- ensuring that the **Cost of Energy review**, which will recommend measures for keeping UK energy costs as low as possible, considers the UK’s 2050 carbon reduction objective;
- increasing **spending on R&D**, for example for batteries that will power a generation of electric vehicles; and
- working with Overseas Territory governments to **create a Blue Belt of marine protection**, establishing the largest marine sanctuaries in the world.

**The 2017 Queen’s Speech** included a commitment to continue support for international action on climate change, including the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and legislation “to ensure the United Kingdom remains a world leader in new industries, including electric cars”.

Source: Queen’s Speech: [www.gov.uk/government/speeches/queens-speech-2016](http://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/queens-speech-2016) and Conservative 2017 manifesto: [www.conservatives.com/manifesto](http://www.conservatives.com/manifesto)