



Office for
**Environmental
Protection**

ADEPT Environment Board
20 July

Dr Simon Brockington, Chief Insights Officer

What is the OEP?



The Environment Act 2021 established the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) as a **new public body**.

Our principal objective in exercising our functions is to contribute to environmental protection and the improvement of the natural environment

Our remit covers **England, Northern Ireland** and **reserved matters**

We are part of the **new system of environmental governance** in the Environment Act - alongside environmental improvement plans, targets and the environmental principles

We are sponsored by Defra, but independent from them.

What does the OEP do?



Office for
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Scrutinising Environmental Improvement Plans (EIPs) and targets

We review and report on progress in delivering environmental improvement plans, goals, and targets.



Scrutinising environmental law

We monitor and report on the implementation of environmental law.



Advice

We advise government on proposed changes to environmental law and other matters related to the natural environment.



Enforcement

We investigate suspected serious failures to comply with environmental law by public authorities and enforce compliance where needed.

OEP Strategy



Office for
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- Published our **Strategy and Corporate plan** last month
- Wide consultation programme to get the **views of stakeholders**
- Set out **four objectives in our strategy** that set out how we will pursue our principal objective and achieve our mission:
 1. Sustained environmental improvement
 2. Better environmental law, better implemented
 3. Improved compliance with environmental law
 4. Organisational excellence and influence



Taking stock: protecting, restoring and improving the environment in England

May 2022



- Annual reporting cycle with first report published May 2022
- Part of our statutory duty to hold government to account on environmental progress against environmental improvement plans and targets
- Set out what we think is required for national level environmental stewardship

Building Blocks national level environmental stewardship



Understanding
drivers and
pressures



Coherent
strategy and
policy



Creating a vision



Governance



Setting targets



Measuring,
assessing and
reporting

Looking towards 2023

Key milestones ahead

- New Environmental Improvement plan
- Significant Improvement Test
- Proposed targets
- Environmental Principles adoption

OEP 2023 EIP report

Working with our stakeholders



Want to find out more?



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