




OEP monitoring of the delivery of the Environmental Improvement Plan

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Introduction to the OEP

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What is the OEP?


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

The role of the OEP is to **protect and improve the environment** by holding government and public authorities to account against their commitments and environmental law.





Remit covers England, Northern Ireland and reserved matters

Central to a **new system of environmental governance** in the Environment Act - alongside environmental improvement plans, targets and principles


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What does the OEP do?


 <p>Scrutinising Environmental Improvement Plans (EIPs) and targets</p> <p>We review and report on progress in delivering environmental improvement plans, goals, and targets.</p>	 <p>Scrutinising environmental law</p> <p>We monitor and report on the implementation of environmental law.</p>	 <p>Advice</p> <p>We advise government on proposed changes to environmental law and other matters related to the natural environment.</p>	 <p>Enforcement</p> <p>We investigate suspected serious failures to comply with environmental law by public authorities and enforce compliance where needed.</p>
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Scrutinising EIPs and targets

- We publish a monitoring report each year.
- We monitor progress with the EIP and targets. The current EIP for England was published in January 2023.
- Government's APR triggers the OEP's own report publication



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Summary of findings from our last monitoring report


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Overall Assessment

“to leave the environment of England in a better state”

Our assessment


- 32 environmental trends
- 23 Government targets
- Climate adaptation
- Evaluating environmental stewardship system



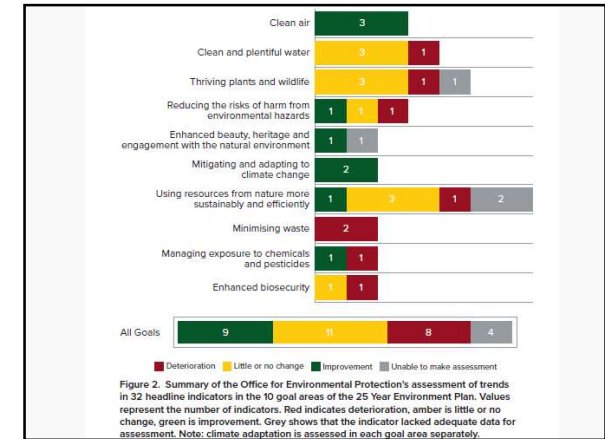
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Assessing Environmental Trends and Targets

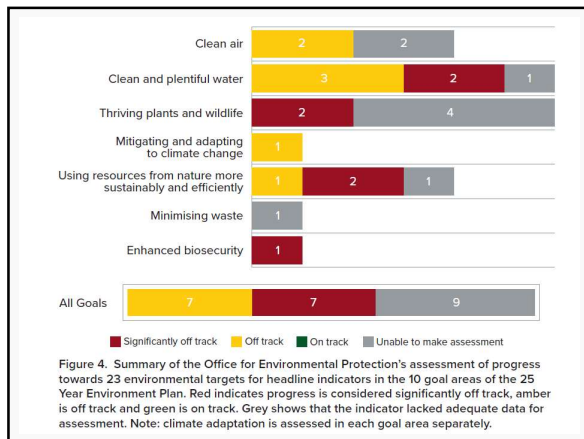
- Most trends are not showing environmental improvement.
- Progress is not demonstrably on track for any of the targets assessed.
- Many trends and targets could not be assessed due to a lack of information.



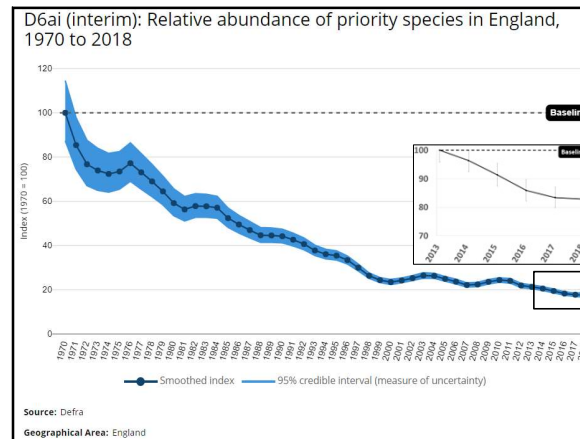
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Assessing Government's environmental stewardship

- Barriers to improved performance assessed
- Identified eight attributes of an effective new EIP, and to support its successful implementation.




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A new and effective EIP would:

1. Clearly translate vision into policies, commitments and actions for all of government.
2. Establish clear governance arrangements that drive delivery on the ground.
3. Have a unifying overall delivery plan and one for each goal area.
4. Set and pursue clear and achievable interim targets that are ambitious as possible in the areas needing most attention.

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A new and effective EIP would:

5. Make clear use of robust and current data and analyses that are well aligned with all targets.
6. Establish an evaluation framework, to learn and improve
7. Diagnose the cause of adverse trends, identify the most urgent, harmful or widespread concerns, and develop effective and timely responses.
8. Develop assessment regimes that look more to the future, anticipate trends and outcomes.


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EIP23 and its attributes



Clearly translate vision into policies, commitments and actions for all of government.	+++
Have a unifying overall delivery plan and one for each goal area.	+
Set and pursue clear and achievable interim targets that are ambitious as possible in the areas needing most attention.	++
Make clear use of robust and current data and analyses that are well aligned with all targets.	++
Establish an evaluation framework, to learn and improve	+
Diagnose the cause of adverse trends, identify the most urgent, harmful or widespread concerns, and develop effective and timely responses.	+
Develop assessment regimes that look more to the future, anticipate trends and outcomes.	+


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Looking forwards

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EIP monitoring



Improved understanding of drivers and pressures
 Greater use of forward looking information and analyses
 Improved understanding of interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs
 More response/solutions orientated




Guiding principles:

- Matching structure and evidence
- Integrated assessment across all sections
- Use of integration foci e.g. natural capital, economy, people
- Development of summary assessments where feasible
- Visibility of OEP work


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Our wider focus now



Improving nature	Clean water	Effective governance
Soil health	Managing Waste	Improving nature at sea
Develop and mature our capability		
Operate efficiently		

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Some of our work and plans 

Effective governance		NI EIP	PIRs	Principles
		Targets	REUL	
Clean water	Investigation into the role of SoS, Ofwat, EA in regulating CSOs	Report on implementation of law protecting inland water quality	Report on bathing waters	
Improving nature	Focus on pathway to statutory targets and delivery of plans for nature	Report on implementation of laws relating to protected sites	Report on implementation of environmental assessment regimes	LURB/EOR
				Indirect effects

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Questions 

Questions for me	?
Questions for you	How can we work most effectively together to support the OEP protect and improve the environment in its role?

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