



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FORUM

c/o Society for the Environment
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The Rt Hon Steve Reed
Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham St
London
SW1P 4DF

The Rt Hon Ed Miliband
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

Sent by email

29 July 2024

Dear Secretaries of State,

Firstly, may we congratulate you on your appointments as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, respectively.

We are writing to you as the Environmental Policy Forum (EPF), a coalition of 14 professional bodies and learned societies promoting environmental sustainability and resilience for the public benefit. Collectively we represent over 110,000 qualified professionals across a wide range of different specialised disciplines, often working in industry or the public sector and many running successful businesses.

Ten priorities for a better environment

The UK faces inextricably linked climate and nature crises and the successive recent governments have failed to adequately tackle these challenges. In advance of the general election, the EPF set out ten clear priorities for the new government to achieve with support from business. Demonstrating

cross-sector consensus on both the level of action required and the opportunities this presents to the UK, including for growing to a healthier and sustainable economy, these priorities are as follows:

Cross-cutting priorities

1. Improve environmental governance to ensure effective policy delivery.
2. Unlock the enormous social, economic and environmental potential of green jobs and skills.
3. Take a holistic approach to land use.

Thematic priorities

4. Ensure soils are treated as a valuable resource.
5. Deliver on our 30x30 commitment to reverse biodiversity decline.
6. Transform the UK agricultural and food system, to secure the UK's access to sustainable sources of food.
7. Prioritise water resilience to deliver '[A Fresh Water Future](#)'.
8. Increase ambitions and holistic action for a country with cleaner air.
9. Deliver a truly circular economy.
10. Unlock investment in low carbon technologies to deliver net zero.

These priorities are interconnected, reflecting the urgent need for a joined-up approach to policymaking, involving effective communication and coordinated policy across DEFRA, DESNZ and all other government departments. This holistic approach should be underpinned by evidence-based policy and regular consultation with experts, to enable effective policy delivery.

A positive start

There is much to welcome in the new government's policy agenda when it comes to delivering on these priorities, including the commitments outlined in the King's Speech and the Labour Party manifesto and missions. As just a few notable examples, it's great to see the government commit to investing in green jobs, skills and renewable energy, introducing a Land Use Framework and strengthening the powers of water regulators.

Working together to deliver tangible change

You can view our ten priorities for the government in full, including the underlying specific asks, and, importantly, how these can deliver returns on investment by stimulating and growing economic wellbeing. Please visit our website: envpolicyforum.org.uk/priorities-next-government-2024.

We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we can help you, to provide any further details you may require and to provide further supporting evidence and actions needed to deliver healthy and sustainable economic growth and wellbeing.

We look forward to working with you and the devolved administrations where appropriate, to deliver on these important priorities. Together, we stand ready to facilitate consultation with our

extensive network of experts, ensuring policymakers and practitioners work side by side to achieve a better environment and a healthier economy.

Yours Sincerely,

Professor William Pope FIEEnvSci, HonFSE, CEnv, CSci
Chair, Environmental Policy Forum



Cc:

Rachel Reeves MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer
Bridget Phillipson MP, Secretary of State for Education
Louise Haigh MP, Secretary of State for Transport
Angela Rayner MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Wes Streeting MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Signed on behalf of the following organisations:

Jason Reeves
Head of Policy, Chartered Institute of Ecology
and Environmental Management



Lee Marshall
Director of Innovation and Technical Services,
Chartered Institution of Wastes Management



Anna Daroy,
Chief Executive Officer,
Chartered Institution of Water and
Environmental Management



Louise Simpson
Executive Director, Institute of Chartered
Foresters



Ben Goodwin
Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Institute
of Environmental Management and
Assessment



Paul Coulson
Acting CEO, Institute of Fisheries
Management



Dr Colin Church
Chief Executive, Institute of Materials,
Minerals and Mining



Adam Donnan
CEO, Institution of Environmental Sciences



Peter Egan
Chair, Sustainability Forum, Institution of
Royal Engineers



Robert Hughes
CEO, Landscape Institute



Dr Emma Wilcox
Chief Executive, Society for the Environment



Notes:

1. The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) is the leading professional membership body representing and supporting over 7,300 ecologists and environmental managers in the UK, Ireland and abroad. Their Vision is of a society which values the natural environment and recognises the contribution of professional ecologists and environmental managers to its conservation. cieem.net
2. The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) is the leading professional body for the waste management sector representing over 5,500 individuals in the UK. Established in 1898, CIWM is a non-profit making organisation, dedicated to the promotion of professional competence amongst waste managers. CIWM seeks to raise standards for those working in and with the sector by producing best practice guidance, developing educational and training initiatives, and providing information on key waste-related issues. ciwm.co.uk
3. The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM), is the leading independent Chartered professional body for water and environment professionals, promoting excellence within the sector. ciwem.org

4. The Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) is the Royal Chartered home for tree professionals across the UK. It is the only UK body to offer both Chartered Forester and Chartered Arboriculturist titles. As part of its ongoing strategic objectives, the Institute regulates standards of entry to the profession; supports members and provides guidance to professionals in other sectors; offers educational advice and training to both students and tree professionals seeking to develop their careers and works to foster a greater public awareness and understanding of forestry and arboriculture. The Institute has more than 2,000 members who practice forestry, arboriculture and related disciplines in the private sector, central and local government, non-government organisations, charities, universities and colleges throughout England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Integrity, excellence, collaboration, sustainability, and transparency form the basis on which they operate and these values underpin all of their strategic objectives. The Institute works with forestry sector organisations and higher education institutes to promote forestry and arboricultural career paths to young people, in order to ensure the continued growth of this dynamic sector and address the ongoing skills shortage. charteredforesters.org
5. We are the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). We are the global professional body for over 20,000 individuals and 300 organisations working, studying, or interested in the environment and sustainability. This is a growing and evolving profession, and we are committed to supporting, encouraging and improving the confidence and performance as well as the profile and recognition of all environment and sustainability professionals. We also help and support public and private sector organisations, governments and regulators to do the right thing when it comes to environment and sustainability related initiatives, challenges and opportunities. We work to influence public policy on environment and sustainability matters. We do this by drawing on the insights and experience of our members to ensure that what happens in practice influences the development of government policy, legislation, regulations and standards. We are the professional organisation at the centre of the sustainability agenda, connecting business and individuals across industries, sectors and borders. iema.net
6. The Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM) is an international organisation of people whose aim is to support and promote sustainable fisheries management for the benefit of our members, fisheries, wildlife and society. ifm.org.uk
7. The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3) is a professional engineering, environmental and scientific institution, a registered charity and governed by a Royal Charter. IOM3 supports professionals in materials, minerals, mining and associated technical disciplines to be champions of the transition to a low-carbon, resilient & resource efficient society. It seeks to be the best professional membership body it can be by providing modern, flexible services; quality technical content; and value for money. Our activities promote and develop all aspects of the Materials Cycle, from exploration and extraction, to characterisation, processing and application, to product recycling, repurposing and reuse. iom3.org

8. The Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) is a membership organisation representing professionals from fields as diverse as air quality, land contamination and education - wherever environmental work is underpinned by science. We promote and raise public awareness of environmental science by supporting professional scientists and academics and by standing up for the voice of science, scientists, and the natural world in policy. the-ies.org
9. The Institution of Royal Engineers (InstRE) is a learned society of over 10,000 members that seeks to advance the art and science of military engineering by sharing experiences, best practice and emerging thinking. Via its Sustainability Forum the institution provides an arena for debate on environmental and sustainability issues across Defence and aid activities through joint professional meetings; research collaborations; publication in professional articles; learning from the Royal Engineers Museum, Library and archive collection; while driving greater awareness via professional registration, prize and a memorials funds. instre.org
10. The Landscape Institute (LI) is the chartered body for the landscape profession. It is an educational charity working to promote the art and science of landscape practice. The LI's aim, through the work of its members, is to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment for the public benefit. The Landscape Institute provides a professional home for all landscape practitioners including landscape scientists, landscape planners, landscape architects, landscape managers and urban designers. landscapeinstitute.org
11. The Society for the Environment (SocEnv) is an umbrella body, comprised of 27 Licensed Members. Having received a Royal Charter in 2004, we license professional institutions to award the Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv), Registered Environmental Practitioner (REnvP) and Registered Environmental Technician (REnvTech) professional registrations. There are now over 8,000 environmental professionals currently registered who share a common vision of delivering a sustainable future shaped by environmental professionalism. socenv.org.uk