



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FORUM

**c/o Society for the Environment
297 Euston Road, London, NW1 3AD**

www.envpolicyforum.org.uk

Contact: sarah.ridgeon@socenv.org.uk

The Rt Hon Steve Reed
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham St
London
SW1P 4DF

Sent by email

4 November 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

Firstly, as the Environmental Policy Forum (EPF) may we congratulate you on your recent appointment as Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. Following on our correspondence during your time as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, we hope we can continue to work together productively.

We are pleased to say that the EPF has grown since our last correspondence, and we are now a coalition of 15 professional bodies and learned societies. Collectively we now represent over 160,000 qualified members, including business leaders and qualified public and private professionals across a wide range of different specialised disciplines.

Together, we have delivered cross-sector consensus on the [ten environmental priorities](#) which policymakers must urgently address. These priorities are based on the challenges experienced by practitioners working across disciplines, and the numerous opportunities that exist to address these barriers and achieve economic growth. Each priority contains specific asks for policymakers, which should be achieved through support from business.

The UK has an opportunity to unlock the huge economic potential of the green transition, supporting good jobs across all regions, spurring investment and building sustainable and resilient growth. The responsible management and stewardship of our environment and resources, including

through decarbonisation and greater circularity, underpins the government's economic ambitions. Natural resources and their processed by-products form the basis of virtually all economic activity, while innovation for sustainability presents a major growth opportunity across sectors. As representatives of professionals and businesses spanning the full breadth of the economy, EPF can offer trusted advice on supporting green growth.

Building on successes

Since the Government came to office last year, we have welcomed developments which aim to deliver on these priorities, including the Government's investment in sustainable farming and nature recovery, and progressing with the development of a Review of the Water Sector, a Land Use Framework and Circular Economy Strategy. However, there remains much more to be done to capture the economic potential of the green transition and there are many unrealised opportunities.

Most central of all, there is an unlocked potential for a joined-up, evidence-based approach to policymaking. As outlined by our ten priorities, it is clear there have previously been distinct but interconnected areas of environmental policy existing in silos within Government, resulting in perpetual conflict between policies to no benefit to the stated environmental objective. In addition, the effects of policy uncertainty have contributed to an often confusing and unstable environment for investors.

Not only will an evidence-based approach increase the probability of the policy meeting its objectives, but there are also clear socio-economic and health benefits to implementing the solutions outlined in our ten priorities, such as jobs creation, increased investment, industrial development, improved air, land and water quality and reduced food waste. Taking a holistic approach means we can navigate trade-offs, for example across different land uses, and are able to deliver economic growth and housing infrastructure without causing environmental degradation.

Although we welcome signs that Government is more willing to engage on part 3 of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, we remain concerned by the recent rhetoric that nature is a blocker on housebuilding, [contrary to the evidence](#). We'd welcome discussing this with you further, as we think we can help you on this matter.

How we can help you

As professional bodies and learned societies, we play a key role in facilitating good practice sharing and regular consultation with practitioners: those with the knowledge and experience of delivering policy.

The EPF stand ready to present you with further evidence from our extensive network, to support the delivery of a better environment and strong economic growth. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you during the coming weeks, to discuss how we can work together for mutual benefit. Perhaps you would be kind enough to ask your team to reach out to us, and then we can work out the meeting arrangements. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Sarah Ridgeon MCIPR

Secretariat, Environmental Policy Forum

Signed on behalf of the following organisations:

Phil McCluskey,
Senior Policy & External Affairs Manager,
British Ecological Society



Amanda Williams,
Head of Environmental Sustainability,
Chartered Institute of Building



Sally Hayns,
CEO, Chartered Institute of Ecology and
Environmental Management



Mark Elliott,
President, Chartered Institute of
Environmental Health



Tina Benfield,
Technical Manager, Chartered Institution of
Wastes Management



Alastair Chisholm,
Director of Policy,
Chartered Institution of Water and
Environmental Management



Louise Simpson,
CEO, Institute of Chartered Foresters



Paul Coulson,
Chief Executive, Institute of Fisheries
Management



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



Signe Norberg,
Director of Policy and Public Affairs,
The Institute of Sustainability and
Environmental Professionals



Joseph Lewis,
Head of Policy, Institution of Environmental
Sciences



Peter Egan,
Chair, Sustainability Forum, Institution of
Royal Engineers



Rob Hughes,
CEO, Landscape Institute



Dr Emma Wilcox,
Chief Executive, Society for the Environment



Notes:

1. The British Ecological Society (BES) is the largest scientific society for ecologists in Europe with a membership of 7,000 in over 120 countries around the world. We support the ecology community at all stages of their careers through our journals, meetings, grants, and education and policy work. The first ecology society to be established anywhere in the world, we have been the champion of ecology for more than a century. britishecologicalsociety.org
2. The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) are the world's largest and most influential professional body for construction management and leadership. Our members work

worldwide in the development, conservation, and improvement of the built environment. We accredit university degrees, educational courses, and training. Our professional and vocational qualifications are a mark of the highest levels of competence and professionalism, providing assurance to clients and other professionals procuring built assets. ciob.org

3. 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
4. The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) is the membership and awarding body for the environmental health sector. Our members work around the world, improving lives and demonstrating excellence across all areas of environmental health including food, public health, housing, environmental protection, and health and safety. cieh.org
5. 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
6. 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
7. 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. charteredforesters.org
8. 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
9. 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

10. The Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) is the global membership body that sets the standard for anyone wanting sustainable change that delivers for the environment, society and the economy. isepglobal.org
11. The Institution of Environmental Sciences (the IES) is at the forefront of uniting the environmental sciences around a shared goal: to work with speed, vision and expertise to solve the world's most pressing environmental challenges, together. As the global professional membership body for environmental scientists, we support a diverse network of professionals all over the world – and at every stage of their education and careers – to connect, develop, progress and inspire. the-ies.org
12. The Institution of Royal Engineers (InstRE), established in 1875 and granted a Royal Charter in 1923, serves as a professional and learned society dedicated to advancing military engineering. With a membership exceeding 10,000 individuals, comprising both serving and retired personnel from the Corps of Royal Engineers and allied international military engineers, InstRE promotes the art and science of military engineering through professional development, publications, and events. It supports engineering excellence by facilitating professional registration, innovation and sustainable outcomes, alongside maintaining historical archives and museum of engineering, thereby enhancing the operational effectiveness and heritage of military engineering. instre.org
13. 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
14. The Society for the Environment (SocEnv) defines the standards for professional competence in environmental practice, ensuring key decisions are made by verified professionals. 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 8,500 registered environmental professionals, sharing a common vision of delivering a sustainable future shaped by environmental professionalism. socenv.org.uk