



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FORUM

c/o Society for the Environment

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The Rt Hon Emma Reynolds
Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham St
London
SW1P 4DF

Sent by email

Open letter re: The Circular Economy Growth Plan

18 May 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to you as the Environmental Policy Forum (EPF), a coalition of 17 professional bodies and learned societies promoting environmental sustainability and resilience for the public benefit. Collectively we represent over 170,000 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, including the delivery of a truly circular economy.

EPF are deeply concerned about the ongoing delays to the Circular Economy Growth Plan. The transition to greater circularity and resource efficiency is urgently needed to unlock the UK's economic potential, supporting job creation, investment and sustained growth. Keeping resources in circulation at their highest value for as long as possible not only protects vital environmental assets from degradation but also increases the resilience of UK supply chains. In

this increasingly uncertain geopolitical landscape, ensuring reliable access to the resources our economy and society need is key to national security.

The infrastructure, skills and incentive structures required to successfully foster circularity require long term strategic planning and investment. It is thus crucial that the Circular Economy Growth Plan is delivered and implemented at pace to ensure that the UK can reap urgently needed advancements in growth, security, decarbonisation and sustainability.

As professional bodies and learned societies working on sustainability across various UK supply chains, EPF has access to a wealth of expertise relevant to the successful transition to a circular economy. Our extensive network of professionals has the knowledge and experience of delivering policy across sectors and can offer impartial and trusted insights on the areas of circularity and resource efficiency.

We urge the Government to publish the Circular Economy Growth Plan as soon as possible and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the ways we can support next steps. As our members will be crucial to the implementation of the plan, we look forward to working together towards achieving our aligned priorities.

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:

Tara Page,
Chief Executive, Chartered Institute of
Architectural Technologists



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



Ian Andrews
Head of Environmental Health, Chartered
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Dan Cooke, Director of Policy,
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Chartered Institution of Wastes Management



Paul Shaffer, Director of Projects,
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,
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Signe Norberg,
Director of Policy and Public Affairs,
The Institute of Sustainability and
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Joseph Lewis,
Head of Policy, Institution of Environmental
Sciences



Billy Piper,
Secretary, Sustainability Forum, Institution of
Royal Engineers



Ian Phillips,
Chair, Landscape Institute Policy & Public
Affairs Committee



Dr Emma Wilcox
Chief Executive, Society for the Environment



Notes:

1. The Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT) is a dynamic, forward-thinking and inclusive global membership qualifying body for Architectural Technology. It exists as a not-for-profit organisation to lead, represent and promote Architectural Technology and to set and maintain the standards for education, practice and professionalism. As a regulated Chartered qualification CIAT also has a societal responsibility. It is the only international body permitted to award the regulated and protected qualification, 'Chartered Architectural Technologist' and the protected designations MCIAT or FCIAT. This status recognises the distinct nature of the Architectural Technology discipline and reflects the prestigious and independent character of the Institute. architecturaltechnology.com
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 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
4. 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
5. 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
6. 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
7. 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
8. 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

9. 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
10. 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
11. 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
12. 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
13. The Society for the Environment (SocEnv) defines the benchmark 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 nearly 9,000 registered environmental professionals, sharing a common vision of delivering a sustainable future shaped by trusted environmental professionalism. socenv.org.uk