

# Horizon Scanning

Climate and Environmental Government Action

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**METROMAYOR**  
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

# Committed Government Action - *Energy*

- Particular targets on energy include addressing planning delays, grid delays, supply chain issues and skills gaps.
- Commit to setting up of GB Energy to invest in (own, manage and operate) technologies including nuclear, offshore wind, tidal, hydrogen and CCS whilst ensuring a just transition for oil and gas sector
- Removal of restrictions on the investment ability of the Crown Estate, effectively freeing them up to invest directly in offshore wind or other supporting technologies in their land ownership (sea bed)
- Mechanisms for financial incentives for communities hosting clean energy infrastructure
- Lifting defacto 'ban' on onshore wind
- Commit to publishing a solar road map
- Streamline delivery of clean energy infrastructure (i.e. power lines and infrastructure) to deliver 2030 clean power mission. Shown intent with approval of 3 large solar farm projects.
- Commit to publishing a Land Use Framework working in tandem with Spatial Energy Plan

# Committed Government Action - *Environmental*

- *“Government recognises the urgency of the global climate challenge and the fact that UK is off track to achieve interim targets mandated by the Climate Change Act 2008”*
- **Water:** Water companies will be put under tougher measures, strengthening the regulation and scrutiny they are required to comply with. Includes personal criminal liability for water company managers, greater real-time monitoring at sewage outlets, automatic and severe fines. Acknowledges that private sector investment will be required to repair or replace ageing water infrastructure.
- **Decarbonisation Infrastructure:** National Wealth Fund – similar to the UK Infrastructure Bank that can invest in strategic projects, but on a more secure footing. Targets for investment include port infrastructure, gigafactories, clean steel, carbon capture and green hydrogen, but as a vehicle to leverage in private sector investment.
- **Homes:** Construction of social and affordable housing *“working with local government to develop local plans”*
- **Nature and adaptation:** Committed to *“protect, create and improve spaces that increase climate resilience and promote nature’s recovery on land and at sea”*
- Kings Speech reinforces commitment to the 13 targets set out in Environment Act 2021.

# Environment Act 2021 targets

## Biodiversity on land

1. Ensure that species abundance in 2042 is greater than in 2022;
2. and at least 10% greater than 2030.
3. Improve the Red List index for England for species extinction risk by 2042, compared to 2022 levels.
4. Restore or create in excess of 500,000ha of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042, compared to 2022 levels.

## Biodiversity in the sea

5. 70% of the designated features in the MPA network to be in favourable condition by 2042, with the remainder in recovering condition.

## Water quality and availability

6. Halve the length of rivers polluted by harmful metals from abandoned mines by 2038, against a baseline of around 1,500km.
7. Reduce nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment pollution from agriculture into the water environment by at least 40% by 2038, compared to a 2018 baseline.

8. Reduce phosphorous loadings from treated wastewater by 80% by 2038 against a 2020 baseline.
9. Reduce the use of public water supply in England per head of population by 20% from the 2019/20 baseline by the end of 37/38.

## Woodland cover

10. Increase total tree and woodland cover from 14.5% of land area [in England] now to 16.5% by 2050.

## Resource efficiency and waste reduction

11. Reduce residual waste (kg per capita) by 50% by 2042 from 2019 levels [of 574kg/capita]

## Air Quality

12. Annual mean concentration target for PM2.5 levels in England to be 10ug/m<sup>3</sup> or below by 2040.
13. Reduction in PM2.5 population exposure of 35% compared to 2018 to be achieved by 2040.