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How can LPAs plan for Environmental Improvement?

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Background – the Environmental Improvement Plan



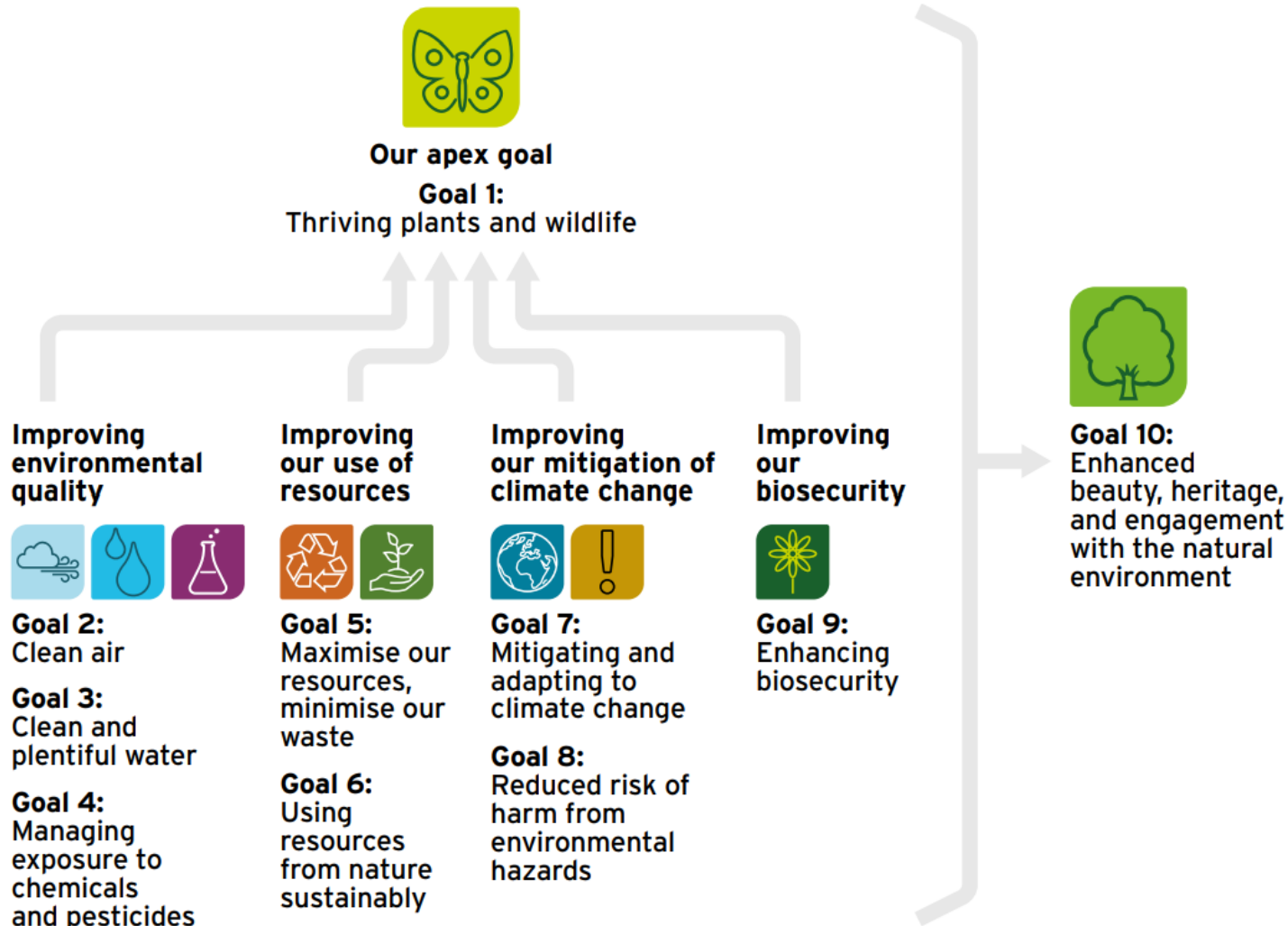
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- Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (EIP23) revises the 25-Year Environment Plan (25YEP) as part of our obligations under the Environment Act.
- Alongside new powers and duties from the Environment Act, Agriculture Act and Fisheries Act, it provides a comprehensive delivery plan for the government's approach to halting and then reversing the decline in nature.
- It has been developed in line with international commitments to address the interlinked challenges of global biodiversity loss and climate change.

Our apex goal



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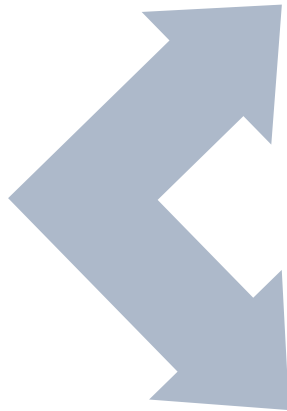


- To reverse the decline in nature, to which all our other goals and targets contribute.
- Our apex targets are to:
 - Halt the decline in species abundance by 2030.
 - Increase species abundance by the end of 2042, so that it is greater than in 2022 and at least 10% greater than in 2030.

EIP23 and the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill...



EIP23 will guide changes under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill



EIP will inform the review of the National Planning Policy Framework and introduction of National Development Management Policies

New system of Environmental Outcomes Reports aligned to the EIP, replacing Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment



The **Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill** will build on the **Environment Act 2021** to make it easier to plan for the needs of different areas:

- Local Nature Recovery Strategies will inform Local Plans and help ensure that opportunities for nature recovery are supported by the land use planning system. Planning reforms will give more weight to Local Plans, and they will be faster for local authorities to produce.
- Working with the new requirement for development to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain, this will help the planning system play a more proactive role for nature and the environment.

In order to deliver the goals in the EIP we need to think about nature recovery, as well as protection.

How can we plan for nature in the same way as planning for (for example) economic development?



Land Use Framework - In the Government Food Strategy we committed to publish a Land Use Framework for England in 2023. The Framework will support the delivery of resilient, multifunctional landscapes, which will be dependent on the local context and needs.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies - locally led strategies for nature and environmental improvement established by the Environment Act 2021.

- Each local nature recovery strategy will:
 - agree priorities for nature's recovery
 - map the most valuable existing areas for nature
 - map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals
- Preparation of LNRSs to begin across **England from April 2023**.
- **Look out for:** secondary legislation, statutory guidance, consultation response, Responsible Authority appointments and funding, and provision of nationally held data and information.

How can local authorities make the best use of the land that they own / manage – and the land that they don't?



Biodiversity Net Gain: requirement for development to achieve at least 10% biodiversity net gain.

- Will become mandatory for most new development in England **from November 2023**.
- Recently published consultation response, guidance on the off-site market, guidance on stacking and announcement of funding for local authorities.
- **Look out for:** Further guidance throughout Spring on securing and managing sites, monitoring, and reporting. We anticipate a consultation on the secondary legislation in late Spring.

Green Infrastructure Framework: framework to support the delivery of green space in urban environments.

- Voluntary tool, published by Natural England in February 2023.

How can local authorities shape the delivery of biodiversity improvements to provide the greatest benefit for their local communities?

Any questions?

How can we plan for nature in the same way as planning for (for example) economic development?

How can local authorities make the best use of the land that they own / manage – and the land that they don't?

How can local authorities shape the delivery of biodiversity improvements to provide the greatest benefit for local communities?

