

Functional Skills

English

Level 2

Source Booklet

OPEN AWARDS

Paper 2



Text 1



Wellingborough
Council

The Environment Act 2021

INTEGRATION • PREVENTION • PRECAUTION • RECTIFICATION • POLLUTER PAYS

• ABOUT THE ACT •

- The Environment Act, created this year, is a law introduced by parliamentary government.
- It aims to hold the UK to the standards of environmental protection it had while it was a part of the European Union.
- An addition to the Environment Act of 1995, the new legislation aims to improve water and air quality, tackle waste, and improve the biodiversity of the UK.



As part of the new Environment Act, the government will be reviewing its environmental targets and commitments. It will also be thinking about whether meeting them would really improve England's natural environment.

The legal framework of the act also means that the government needs to publish the important data for us all to see. The progress of the pledges and goals made in the Act will be demonstrated by whether this data matches up to the targets set.

In addition, DEFRA (the Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs) in Northern Ireland needs to set out an Environmental Improvement Plan in line with the overarching schedule.

The government are also holding an important public consultation, which will close at 11:45pm on 27th June, 2022. This consultation will try to get opinions from the public about the new environmental targets in the Environment Act 2021.

The aim of these targets is to leave the environment of the UK in a better state than when the current government came into power.

Your opinion is vital!

You can find details of how to get involved on our webpage, linked below.

4 Main areas of improvement

- 1 Improve water quality and availability
- 2 Improve air quality
- 3 Reduce waste and improve resource efficiency
- 4 Improve biodiversity in sea and on land

• A new body, the **Office for Environmental Protection (OEP)** has been created to help **ensure compliance** with the Act.

• To make sure the Act works, the government will keep **setting and re-evaluating** its **long-term environmental targets**.

• The Act will provide a **strong legal framework** for a future of UK-led environmental governing.

To learn more, go to www.WCC.gov.uk 

NEW ENVIRONMENT LEGISLATION: AN ACT?

Written by: Marius Zusak

The government's recent Environment Act has sparked some debate within academic communities. Whilst some have lauded the new legislation as ground-breaking, the discussion within the circle of top environmental scientists is especially critical.

Since the mid 1990s, specialists have advised the government that the climate crisis* is of the utmost severity. For many, the implementation of an Act which does little to stop the progress of climate breakdown, and in some cases worsens it, is an unwelcome addition.

The main issues with the act lie in the problematic aims it sets out.

The government's aim for air purity primarily concerns nitric oxide, a toxic gas which can trigger heart attacks and is strongly linked to increases in respiratory malfunction.

Whilst the ambition to reduce the presence of nitric oxide is overwhelmingly positive, criticism has been made of the date set for the target to be achieved. Researchers at Imperial College London and UCL have stated that the government's goal of lowering the percentage of NO gas in the air is achievable ten years before the set goal date.

The setting up of 'clean air zones' is also a positive step forward. Established zones, wherein air must remain at a certain level of purity, could well be an effective answer to the short-term issue of high pollution levels in urban cities.

As the inhalation of contaminated and heavily polluted air is a chief cause of death and respiratory complications, reducing the locations where individuals inhale such air is undeniably a positive step.

*A term used to describe the threat of climate change.



However, the Act offers no provision of support or financial help to councils or areas wishing to implement them. As a result, council areas which lack larger budgets for wellbeing and health will be the last to benefit from this.

Although its intention may have been progressive, what the government aimed to achieve with the Act has unfortunately not been accomplished. It is clear that too many weakening factors exist and, as a consequence it will not be able to sufficiently protect forests, enable localised and human-focused environmental governance or to reduce air pollution as hoped.

Text 3

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing <https://www.scientists4earth.com>. The page title is "Scientists 4 Earth". The background features a stylized world map. Four speech bubbles contain the following text:

Dr Amadou Proffitt -----
The incredibly foolish way the new environment act has been designed means that it is harming the earth, and doing nothing to help the rainforests!
When will our leaders realise they need to be more focused on the science?!

Dr Kim Siu -----
We depend on nature, if only the government had listened to us when we started to warn them about climate change in the mid 90's!
Advice from the scientific community is not to be sniffed at, we must push them to increase the coverage of this new Environment Act!

Dr Mariam Minhas -----
It's an absolute joke that the board the government have established to monitor the Act is partly under their jurisdiction.
How are we supposed to trust promises are going to be kept, when there's no accountability? I give up.

Dr Ben Lewis -----
I've got to disagree with you here, guys. The Act, although not what we want, is a massive improvement on where we were a few years ago. Progress is progress, right?
Saying this, people in my local community are asking why their voices aren't being heard. They feel so helpless at the lack of emphasis on community input.



"There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot."- Delia Owens