



Conservative manifesto pledges 2015

The environment



Air quality and transport emissions

Aim for every car and van to be zero-emission vehicle by 2050. Will invest £500 million over next 5 years to achieve this.

Will invest over £200 million to make cycling safer and double number of cycle journeys.

“We will continue to do even more to tackle air pollution”



Flooding

Build 1400 new flood defence schemes to protect 300,000 homes.



Fisheries and the marine environment

Defend Common Fisheries Policy reforms, including banning discarding and reforming quota system to ensure at-risk species are fished sustainably by end of the next Parliament.

Continue to devolve the management of North Sea fisheries to local communities.

Create a ‘blue belt’ around the UK’s 14 overseas territories, subject to local support and environmental need.

Complete network of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) and create a UK Blue Belt of protected sites.



Food and farming

Reduce pesticide use and improve Agri-Environment Schemes; increase support for organic farming.



Natural environment

Spend £3 billion from the CAP to enhance countryside, protecting stone walls and hedges, cleaning rivers and lakes and helping bees.

Ensure that our public forests and woodland are kept in trust for the nation. Will plant another 11 million trees.

Protect Green Belt and protected areas.

Protect locally any biodiversity lost in construction of HS2.

Will extend life of the Natural Capital Committee (NCC) and work with it to develop a 25 year plan to restore the UK’s biodiversity.



Energy and Carbon

Support low-cost measures on energy efficiency, with goal of insulating a million homes over next five years.

Support development of shale gas

Continue to support development of North Sea oil and gas.

Provide start-up funding for promising new renewable technologies and research – significant support only where they represent value for money.

End any new public subsidy for onshore wind farms.

Commit £1 billion for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).

“We will push for a strong global climate deal later this year – one that keeps the goal of limiting global warming to two-degrees firmly in reach.” And will continue to support the UK Climate Change Act.



Other

Pledge to “protect hunting, shooting and fishing, for all the benefits to individuals, the environment and the rural economy that these activities bring. A Conservative Government will give Parliament the opportunity to repeal the Hunting Act on a free vote, with a government bill in government time.”

Implement various measures to crack down on illegal wildlife trade.