

The IES: Our voice in environmental policy

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.

What is our perspective in policy discussions?

The IES is a professional body with more than 6000 members. We represent the voices of environmental professionals, sharing insights from the front lines of working with the environment.

The IES is particularly well-placed to represent an interdisciplinary approach to those insights, drawing members working in air quality, land condition, climate, nature, sustainability, water, education, and

anywhere else where environmental work is underpinned by science.

The IES brings a strong scientific and evidence-based perspective to addressing environmental challenges, but we focus on more than just the technical aspects of policy.

We also raise public awareness of environmental science: we give expert perspectives in the media, we are a UNFCCC admitted observer NGO, and we maintain good relationships with parliamentarians, civil servants, and arms-length bodies.

The IES is uniquely positioned to examine interactions between complex natural and social systems from a scientific perspective. We are a leading voice in 'systems thinking' perspectives and transformative approaches to change.

How do we influence environmental policy?

- We maintain relationships with parliamentarians, civil servants, and arms-length bodies, who we influence with briefings, meetings, and other engagement activities.
- We engage in horizon scanning on emerging science and upcoming policy developments, working with our members to identify policy priorities.
- We produce policy reports and guidance, developing thought leadership positions and influencing policy agendas.
- We collaborate with other organisations as part of networks such as the Science Council and the Society for the Environment to represent the voice of the sector.
- We give expert perspectives in the media and are a UNFCCC admitted observer NGO.
- We respond to consultations and produce position pieces on emerging policy topics.
- We produce written content, events, and videos, informing our members and the public about relevant environmental policy issues.
- We provide training, briefings, and knowledge resources for our members, supporting them to champion their own voices in policy.

Examples of our work on environmental policy

- Topical briefing: [Land Use Framework for England](#) (Land use)
- Skills primer: [Influencing the UK Parliament](#)
- Report: [BNG in Practice: One year on from mandatory implementation](#) (Biodiversity)
- Case studies: [Speaking up for science: Case studies for environmental policy](#) (Various)
- Position piece: [Our Shared Mission for Sustainable Wellbeing](#) (Sustainability, interdisciplinarity)
- Horizon scanning briefing: [Water policy development](#) (Water)
- Guidance: [Integrating Action on Air Quality & Climate Change: A Guide for Local Authorities](#) (Clean air, climate)
- Consultation response: [Guidance on wind turbine noise](#) (Acoustics, energy)
- Analysis: [Water Commission: What next?](#) (Water)
- Webinar: [Technology and the Environment](#) (Environmental technology)
- Quoted by the [Environmental Audit Committee](#), the [Office for Environmental Protection](#), and [Defra](#) in consultation and inquiry summaries