

# What is the Environment Programme?

“Environment Programme” simultaneously refers to both the EP team itself and the portfolio of projects referred to collectively as the “Environment Programme”.



- One of Environment Agency's main ‘mechanisms’ for delivering real world improvements to the environment.
- Delivering projects in partnership with others to achieve outcomes
- Refreshed annually and sets out the activities and outcomes we want to achieve, and how much we think it will cost
- Continually evolving as new project ideas are developed with our partners



## Environment Programme Vision

Our land and water environment will be transformed for the benefit of people and wildlife through projects designed to-

Help the natural world respond to the climate change emergency

Regain and retain good health in line with the government's 25 year environment plan

Our integrated programme is delivered in collaboration with Catchment Partnerships and key local stakeholders under a shared vision for each catchment

Informed by sound evidence and local needs and demonstrates value for money.

# Key drivers for the Environment Programme?

The delivery of the 25 Year Environment Plan and delivery of core EA responsibilities

- Local Outcome Plans (LOPs) developed to deliver the action plan to describe what could be done locally to deliver the outcomes
- SSD LOP sets out a clear vision for the future and sets out our ambitions under strategic goals, recognising our unique geography, challenges and opportunities.
  - A nation resilient to climate change
  - Healthy air, land and water
  - Green growth and a sustainable future



# Solent and South Downs Environment Programme? (SSD)



**13.7KM** of our waterbodies were **protected**.



Invested over **£1.1M** in our area through WEIF, WM&I, FIP and Chalk funded projects.



**13 agricultural businesses** were given advice and/or changed their way of working to help improve our waterbodies.



We worked with **95 partners** to help our waterways. For every £1 of WEIF and FIP spent, we brought in just over £1 of external contributions.



Used drone technology to **identify sources of diffuse pollution**. Drones have helped us cover large parts of the Test & Itchen in record time.

## What has the Environment Programme ever done?

In 2022/23 alone, we and our catchment partners have:



Improved **39 recreational facilities** through installing new swims at angling clubs, to INNS working on the Test & Itchen and in the New Forest, which benefitted local angling clubs.



**4,460 rod license users** benefitted from our projects.



Our projects **enhanced 22.95KM** of waterbodies.

# Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF)

What is it?	<p>Government funding used to deliver projects that achieve any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support or deliver <b>Water Framework Directive improvements</b>.</li><li>• Support or deliver improvements to a <b>Protected Area</b>.</li><li>• Benefit a priority water dependant <b>species or habitat</b>.</li></ul>
Examples of projects it will fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>River restoration and wider habitat creation/restoration.</b></li><li>• <b>Fish/eel passage improvements.</b></li><li>• <b>Pollution reduction.</b></li><li>• <b>Removal of invasive non-native species.</b></li></ul>
Caveats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Projects must be delivered in <b>partnership</b> and must bring in cash or in-kind contributions.</li><li>• Projects must deliver <b>on the ground</b> improvements.</li></ul>
When do I need to apply?	Autumn 2024

# Water Management & Investment Fund (WM&I)

What is it?	Government funding and income from abstraction licences. This is used to deliver projects that <b>improve water resource assets</b> (weirs, gauging stations, etc.), or that address <b>environmental issues</b> caused by over abstraction.
Examples of projects it will fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ecological monitoring</b> to investigate water quantity-related issues.</li><li>• <b>Asset decommissioning</b> (revenue)</li><li>• <b>Asset improvements</b>, which can include fitting a fish or eel pass onto an existing asset (capital or revenue)</li><li>• Cheap (&lt;£5k) <b>river restoration, sediment reduction, fish/eel passage improvement.</b></li><li>• Purchase of <b>EA monitoring equipment</b> (capital or revenue)</li></ul>
Caveats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Both capital and revenue funding is available and these pay for very different things!</li><li>• Match funding should be sought from the EA's flood risk teams for work on assets that they own.</li></ul>
When do I need to apply?	21 August 2024

# Chalk Partnership Fund

What is it?	A fund for partnership projects that will help address <b>flow issues in England's chalk catchments</b> and support actions identified in the <b>CaBA chalk strategy</b> .
Examples of project it will fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>River restoration</b> and mitigation to restore habitats affected by unsustainable abstraction and/or create rivers that are more resilient to low flows.</li><li>• <b>Investigation</b> work to improve the evidence base of the impact that over abstraction has on chalk streams.</li><li>• <b>Engagement</b> projects to improve understanding of chalk stream flow issues, help resolve conflict and to enable stakeholders to prioritise and steer work via CaBA.</li></ul>
Caveats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Projects should be delivered in <b>partnership</b> and bring in cash or in-kind contributions.</li><li>• Project development costs (i.e. feasibility studies and designs) can be covered, but the project must deliver clearly defined environmental outcomes.</li></ul>
When do I need to apply?	Autumn 2024

# Fisheries Improvement Programme (FIP)

What is it?	Funding, paid for through rod licence fees, that we use to improve <b>angling sites</b> around the country.
Examples of project it will fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Improved access</b> (i.e. creation of paths and angling platforms)</li><li>• <b>Improved fish habitat.</b></li><li>• Improvements to <b>angling facilities.</b></li><li>• Projects that will help make angling sites more <b>resilient to prolonged dry weather.</b></li></ul>
Caveats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The rivers/lakes/ponds being targeted <b>must be used by anglers.</b> Ideally these should have open memberships +/- offer day tickets.</li><li>• As with WEIF, FIP projects should be delivered in <b>partnership</b> and our partners are expected to contribute cash and/or in-kind support.</li></ul>
When do I need to apply?	February 2025



# Restoring Meadow, Marsh and Reef (ReMeMaRe)

What is it?	A fund to restore at least <b>15%</b> of our <b>lost seagrass meadow, saltmarsh and native oyster reef habitats</b> around our coast by 2043.
Examples of project it will fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Projects <b>protecting/restoring/extending</b> existing saltmarsh, seagrass beds &amp;/or native oyster reefs</li><li>• Projects <b>creating new areas</b> of saltmarsh, seagrass beds &amp;/or native oyster reefs</li><li>• Projects which <b>facilitate the functional restoration</b> of the wider seascape that would help protect/restore these habitats</li></ul>
Caveats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Projects must be delivered in <b>partnership</b> and must bring in cash or in-kind contributions.</li><li>• Projects must deliver <b>on the ground</b> improvements.</li></ul>
When do I need to apply?	By Mid-October

# Complete Project Record (CPR) Lite Spreadsheet

Project Description			
What will this project aim to achieve? Please keep this to a couple of sentences			
What is the background to this project? Where did this idea come from?			
What will the project likely involve?			
What would the risks be if this project didn't go ahead?			
Project Funding			
How much will the project likely cost per year?	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26 :
Which Environment Agency funding stream will you mainly use to fund this project? (please select from the drop-down list)			
Is there an opportunity to use a combination of different Environment Agency funding streams? (If so, please indicate which funding streams you would likely use)			
What opportunities are there to bring in external contributions (cash and/or in-kind)?			

Partnership Working	
Which Environment Agency teams will you likely want support from?	
Which catchment partners (such as rivers trusts, wildlife trusts, water companies, etc.) will you likely be working with to deliver this project?	
Expected Outcomes	
What outcomes will this project likely deliver?  Please demonstrate how this project would align with the objectives of the main Environment Agency funding streams used.	
How will this project contribute to the delivery of the Solent & South Downs Local Outcome Plan?	
What steps have you taken to identify all of the benefits that this project could deliver?	