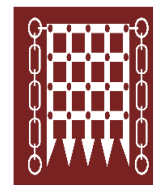


Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Next steps for tackling water pollution in England and Wales

Timing: Morning, Friday, 24th April 2026

Taking place online



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Jim Shannon MP
- 9.05 **Tackling water pollution in England - priorities for policy**
Emma Donnelly, Deputy Director, Clean Waters, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Strengthening accountability and driving investment in England's water sector - next steps for regulation**
Dr James Jenkins, Head, Environment, Ofwat
- 9.45 **Implications of proposals in the Water White Paper for future regulation and water sector governance**
assessing outcomes of the Independent Water Commission and proposals in the Water White Paper | priorities for the proposed new single regulatory body and assessing the role of a new Water Ombudsman | transition to Open Monitoring and strategies to ensure efficacy of penalty regimes | addressing regulatory resource and capacity constraints | policy and legal routes for addressing health impacts of water pollution | maintaining integrity in a risk-based regulatory strategy | looking ahead to the forthcoming water Transition Plan and expected Water Reform Bill | sequencing and delivery conditions for regulatory transition, including governance and capacity | implications of planning reform and Environmental Delivery Plans for water quality outcomes
Dr Mike Keil, CEO, CCW
Nigel Howorth, Partner, Clifford Chance
Mike Hutchins, Water Quality Modeller, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
Amy Coulthard, Head of Policy, Wessex Water
- 10.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.35 Break
- 10.45 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Lucas, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tidy Britain
- 10.50 **'Opportunities for innovation in water quality management'**
Dr Robin Price, Director, Quality, Environment and Assurance, Anglian Water
- 11.00 **Preventing pollution at source - priorities for water infrastructure management**
role of data and digital systems in monitoring and response | designing effective Pollution Incident Reduction Plans | planning for the £10bn investment in storm overflow improvements | the role of local infrastructure solutions, including Sustainable Drainage Systems in developments | tackling pollution from urban surfaces and highways | approaches for prevention and treatment of emerging contaminants, including treatment of sewage sludge | addressing surface water runoff and flood risk, alongside pollution prevention
Jo Bradley, Director of Operations, Stormwater Shepherds UK
Rob Passmore, CEO and Co-Founder, Additive Catchments
Neil Dewis, Director, Asset Consultancy - Water, WSP
- 11.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Future strategy, coordination and delivery, including nature-based solutions**
coordinating national and regional strategies | role of Regional Water Authorities and lessons from existing partnerships | implications of the Upper Costa Beck case for River Basin Management Plans | cross-sector coordination for catchment restoration | priorities for agricultural and land management to reduce nutrient pollution | reviewing the regulatory framework for sewage sludge spreading | meeting targets in the updated Environmental Improvement Plan | role of wetlands, integrated pest management, and other natural approaches in pollution reduction and climate resilience | opportunities and challenges from the Nature Restoration Fund | progress towards national and international targets | implications of planning reform and Environmental Delivery Plans for catchment-scale delivery | funding, affordability and long-term investment considerations for nature-based solutions
James Copeland, National Flood Adviser, National Farmers' Union
Kat Broadhead, Principal Officer, Water, Natural England
Amina Aboobakar, Director, Strategic Development and Stewardship, The Rivers Trust
Yvonne Reese, Head, Natural Economy, Eunomia
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Restoring trust in water quality and services - challenges, progress and next steps**
Helen Wakeham, Director, Water, Environment Agency
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Lord Lucas, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tidy Britain
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum