

Blueprint for Water 2007 report card: progress on ten steps to sustainable water

Waste less water	B Good work in many areas	<p>Excellent progress on Code for sustainable homes</p> <p>Excellent progress on making Building Regulations more water efficient</p> <p>Little progress on retrofitting existing housing stock</p> <p>Limited promotion and awareness</p>
Keep rivers flowing and wetlands wet	C Progress has been patchy	<p>First steps made to tackle problem abstractions through Periodic Review of Water Prices and abstraction charging system</p> <p>Little practical progress</p>
Price water fairly	B Good work in many areas	<p>Good progress on allowing compulsory metering in water-stressed areas</p> <p>Media reports of Government commitment to full metering by 2015 were welcome</p>
Make polluters pay	E Urgent action needed	<p>No progress</p> <p>Series of derisory fines for serious pollution incidents</p> <p>Reduction in Environment Agency investigation effort</p>
Stop pollutants contaminating our water	D Must try harder	<p>Long overdue consultation on tackling diffuse agricultural pollution published</p> <p>Concerns remain over political will to take action</p> <p>No progress on phasing out sheep dip</p>
Keep sewage out of homes and rivers and off beaches	C Progress has been patchy	<p>Ministerial commitment to review automatic right of connection to public sewers is welcome progress</p>

		Expensive work to tackle sewer flooding, but not enough to fix fundamental problems with much of our urban drainage infrastructure
Support water-friendly farming	D Must try harder	<p>Future of Catchment Sensitive Farming programme still not secure</p> <p>Extra pressure on water quality likely from loss of set-aside</p> <p>Government proposals for Nitrate Vulnerable Zones fall short of 100% designation</p>
Clean up drainage from roads and buildings	D Must try harder	<p>Defra's Integrated Urban Drainage pilot projects have started</p> <p>Consultation on reform promised early next year</p> <p>No progress on removing barriers to widespread use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems</p>
Restore rivers from source to sea	E Urgent action needed	<p>Little, if any, practical progress by Government</p> <p>Plans for SSSI river restoration on hold due to lack of funding</p> <p>No clear way forward for action required to meet Water Framework Directive objectives</p> <p>Most restoration projects carried out by local groups with support from Environment Agency and Natural England</p>
Retain water on floodplains and wetlands	E Urgent action needed	Little if any progress, despite Government's 'Making Space for Water' commitment to sustainable flood risk management