

Regulating for people, the environment and growth, 2018

Environment Agency

Regulating to create a better place for people and wildlife

The climate emergency:

We are working hard with sites we regulate to tackle the climate emergency. Our work includes flood management, climate resilience, protecting water resources and promoting energy efficiency.

But we know there is still more to do.



Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Emissions from regulated sites have decreased by **47%** since 2008.

Overseeing energy efficiency and emissions trading schemes

These schemes cover over 50% of the UK's carbon emissions from industry, businesses and the public sector. In 2018, compliance rates were above 98% for each of the 6 schemes we administer.

Regulation protects the environment and supports prosperity:



Improving air quality

Emissions from regulated sites have decreased since 2008:
SOx ↓ **81%** NOx ↓ **65%** PM10 ↓ **37%**



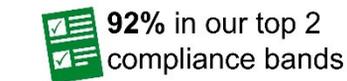
Improving bathing water quality

More waters have passed the minimum quality standards.



Improving waste recovery

More waste has been recovered by industries we regulate. But we still need to recover and reuse more waste, with producers including reuse as part of the design process.



Well run sites

In 2018, the majority of permitted sites were rated in our top A and B permit compliance bands, with 3.2% in the lowest D, E or F bands.

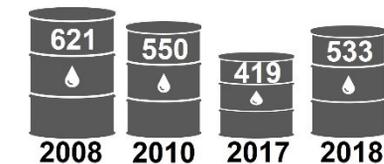


Tough on offenders

Prosecutions taken by us in 2018 resulted in courts fining businesses and individuals almost £2.8 million for environmental offences.

Enforcement undertakings directed money to environmental projects and organisations.

Work is still needed on:



Reducing serious pollution incidents

There are still too many serious pollution incidents. We expect all businesses to actively manage their risks.



Improving river water quality

We are working with water companies, farmers and businesses to plan further improvements and reduce diffuse pollution.



Tackling waste crime

We are still finding about as many new illegal waste sites as we are stopping, but new powers are helping us to investigate and disrupt the activities of rogue operators.