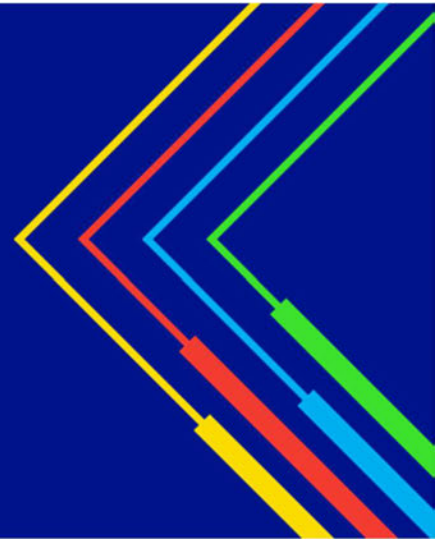


# National Grid response to the Draft Environmental Principles Consultation



National Grid owns and operates the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, and the gas transmission system in Great Britain. We sit at the heart of the energy system, and our businesses supply gas and electricity safely, reliably and efficiently to millions of customers and communities across the UK. Our networks are critically important to the achievement of national objectives for a net zero future and central to the operation and growth of the nation's housing, businesses and public services. We welcome the opportunity to help shape the future direction of environmental governance and would be happy to discuss any of the points made in this response. Please contact <sup>Redacted</sup>

## Question 1. Would you like your response to be confidential?

No.

## Question 2. What is your name?

Redacted

## Question 3. Are you responding:

On behalf of an organisation.

## Question 4. What type of organisation are you responding on behalf of?

Large business: National Grid.

## Question 5. Do you think the overview section provides an adequate foundation for policy makers to apply the environmental principles in policy-making?

The overview section should make reference to national objectives for a net zero future and a requirement for policy-makers to assess how their policy contributes to meeting these objectives. Net zero will require extensive changes across society and therefore, all policy-making should be focussed on supporting what is needed to deliver change to achieve net zero.

## Question 6. Do you think step one allows policy-makers to correctly assess the potential environmental effects of their policy?

**Yes.** The guidance provided in step one allows policy-makers to correctly assess the potential environmental effects of their policy. By setting out the meaning of 'environment' and 'environmental impact' brings clarity to the scope of assessments. The acknowledgement that environmental impacts will be different for each policy and these will need to be assessed proportionally, on a case-by-case basis is helpful.

## Question 7. Do you think step one ensures that policy-making will address the most important environmental effects?

**Other.** Step one should include a requirement for policy-makers to assess how their policy contributes to the achievement of national objectives for a net zero future. Achieving net zero will require extensive changes

across society. Therefore, all policy-making should be focussed on supporting what is needed to deliver change to achieve net zero.

**Question 8. Will step two assist policy-makers in selecting the appropriate environmental principles?**

**Other.** An additional environmental principle should be included that focuses on assessing a policy's ability to deliver environmental enhancement. This will support the delivery of the step-change needed to restore and enhance the natural environment, by introducing measures to require and support lasting action for nature.

**Question 9. Do you think step three provide a robust and sufficient framework for the application of each individual environmental principle?**

**Yes.** Step three provides a robust and sufficient framework for the application of each individual environmental principle.

**Question 10. Do you think the process for applying the policy statement (the three steps) provides a robust and sufficient framework for the application of the environmental principles as a whole?**

The three steps provide a robust and sufficient framework for the application of the environmental principles if they are updated to include a requirement for policy-makers to assess how their policy contributes to the achievement of national objectives for a net zero future and its ability to deliver environmental enhancement.

**Question 11. Do you have any other comments on the draft policy statement which are not covered by the previous questions?**

We welcome the inclusion of guidance on the process for applying the policy statement and in particular the acknowledgement that the duty is not designed to capture individual regulatory, planning or licensing decisions made by Ministers or authorities acting on their behalf. The example provided in reference to planning decisions is especially helpful.