

Government Missions



Kickstart economic growth

Objective

To secure the highest sustained growth in the G7- with good jobs and productivity growth in every part of the country making everyone, not just a few, better off.

Defra Group's interest

As an economic department we will make integral contributions in protecting the economic health of the nation and supporting the transition to a circular economy. Our responsibility for land use could help improve national resilience by providing a stable environment for economic growth by mitigating the impacts of weather, flooding and climate change adaptation.

Lead Department: HMT



Make Britain a clean energy superpower

Objective

To cut bills, create jobs and deliver security with cheaper, zero-carbon electricity by 2030, accelerating to net zero.

Defra Group's interest

To achieve net zero, we will contribute by focusing on nature recovery, which mitigates impacts of climate change, ensures resilience and enhances our natural capital assets. We will play a key role in driving the transition, from contributing to planning reform to supporting the expansion of domestic clean energy production whilst ensuring positive environmental outcomes.

Lead Department: DESNZ



Build an NHS fit for the future

Objective

To ensure the NHS is there when people need it; with fewer lives lost to the biggest killers; in a fairer Britain, where everyone lives well for longer.

Defra Group's interest

We can help build an NHS fit for purpose and alleviate pressures by improving access to nature and through green social prescribing, improving our air quality and reducing the number of hospitalisations from air pollution, ensuring higher consumption of healthier foods and reducing the likelihood of animal disease outbreaks into humans.

Lead Department: DHSC



Take back our streets

Objective

To halve serious violent crime and raise confidence in the police and criminal justice system to its highest levels.

Defra Group's interest

We will play a role in reducing crime and antisocial behaviour through our overarching responsibility for fly-tipping. We will also contribute to the design and implementation of a Rural Crime Strategy, working alongside HO and the National Crime Agency to support the increase in police and PSCO presence in rural areas.

Lead Department: HO



Break down barriers to opportunity

Objective

To reform childcare and education systems, to make sure there is no class ceiling on the ambitions of young people in Britain.

Defra Group's interest

We will play a role in creating opportunities for all by closing the UK's green skills gap by outlining industries and regions that require support in creating and sustaining green jobs.

Lead Department: DWP



Forestry Commission

FC's Contribution to Government Missions



Kickstart economic growth

- Timber as a circular economy
- Land management as a business
- Create jobs in woodland planting, management, harvesting and timber processing sector.
- Vertically integrated industries such as manufacturing and construction.
- Woods and forests attract tourism and recreation spend and farm diversification



Make Britain a clean energy superpower

- **Forestry England** potential green energy provider and potentially storage. Mainly wind with some hydro and solar
- Sustainable forestry can provide a renewable source of biomass and use of waste products for energy production - reduce reliance on fossil fuels and contribute to a cleaner energy mix
- Reduce energy costs through shading and temperature moderation



Build an NHS fit for the future

- Prevention is better than cure
- Access to green spaces encourages physical activity and reduces obesity easing pressure on the NHS
- FR report found that in England £141M of benefit just for mental health
- Trees in hospitals speed up patient recovery times and improve staff wellbeing
- Urban forests filter air pollutants, reducing respiratory illnesses and lowering the burden on NHS respiratory services
- Woods and Forests for social prescribing



Take back our streets

- Effects of urban trees
 - **Reduces anti-social behaviour**
 - Cooling effect
 - Air quality
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Property values
- Trees and vegetation can act as natural sound barriers, creating a more peaceful street environment
- Green streets attract businesses, leading to more vibrant, active communities
- Green spaces bring people together, building social connections and a sense of shared ownership of public spaces



Break down barriers to opportunity

- Rural economy (Timber industry - £2Bn pa and 32k jobs)
- Forestry sector can provide opportunities for workers transitioning from declining industries
- Forest schools and outdoor programs/apprenticeships can build confidence and skills in young people, broadening their horizons and prospects



Defra Priorities



1. Clean up Britain's rivers, lakes and seas to restore pride to people's communities

Why

Our water environment is under pressure including from increased population, intensive farming, urban development, chemicals and climate change

What

- Strengthen consumer voice on water company boards and improve consumer rights
- Prepare for Water Special Measures Bill and a second Water Bill

DG Sponsor: David Hill



2. Create a roadmap to transition Britain to a zero-waste economy, boosting regional economic growth and cutting our carbon emissions

Why

The transition to a circular economy has potential to make our economy more resilient and to attract investment into new business models and infrastructure across the UK

What

- Develop overarching strategy and sector-based roadmaps
- Establish a Circular Economy Taskforce and inter-ministerial group on circular economy
- Deliver existing packaging reform commitments

DG Sponsors: Mike Rowe & Sarah Homer



3. Support our farmers to boost Britain's food security

Why

The food system creates economic value and impacts sustainability and health. Food security is key component in the Chancellor's 'securonomics' agenda

What

- Continue Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) roll out and consider how to achieve outcomes across the farming programme
- Publish a Land Use Framework

DG Sponsor: Sally Randall



4. Turbocharge nature's recovery to protect the beauty of Britain's landscapes and wildlife

Why

Nature underpins our society, however pressures such as habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change, pollution and invasive species have triggered huge declines

What

- Agree planning reforms that both unlock growth and housing, and protect nature
 - Review the EIP
- Deliver nature and Global Biodiversity Framework commitments
- Consider options for improving air quality

DG Sponsor: Mike Rowe



5. Protect communities from the dangers of flooding

Why

At least 1 in 6 people in England are at risk from flooding from rivers and the sea and these numbers are likely to increase with climate change and population growth

What

- Establish a Flood Resilience Taskforce
- Consider options on delivery of floods programme including on flexible funding and sustainable urban drainage systems

DG Sponsor: David Hill

FC's Contribution to Defra Priorities



1. Clean up Britain's rivers, lakes and seas to restore pride to people's communities

- **Trees, woods and forests improve water** quality by acting as natural filters, trapping sediments and absorbing pollutants before they reach water bodies
- 'Riparian buffers' reduce erosion, filter runoff, and provide habitat for wildlife



2. Create a roadmap to transition Britain to a zero-waste economy, boosting regional economic growth and cutting our carbon emissions

- Timber is one of first circular economies – UN Report 2023
- Forests act as natural carbon sinks, absorbing CO2 from the atmosphere and then locking up for the long term in **timber in construction**



3. Support our farmers to boost Britain's food security

- Agroforestry
 - Increased productivity
 - Shelter
 - Improved soil health
 - Diversify income
 - Cooling effect
 - Improved nutrient cycling (from lower soil layers)
- Erosion protection - keeps soil on the farm
- Trees and shrubs support pollinators
- **What about Timber Security?**



4. Turbocharge nature's recovery to protect the beauty of Britain's landscapes and wildlife

- EIP target of 16.5% tree cover which will:
 - Provide wildlife habitat and corridors
 - Support critical ecosystem services for wider biodiversity
- Shade from trees keeps river water temperatures cooler, improving conditions for aquatic life and reduces algal growth
- FC's prevention, tracking and responding to pests and diseases and their harmful effects



5. Protect communities from the dangers of flooding

- Woods and forests help slow water runoff and increasing absorption in soil
- Tree canopies intercept rainfall, reducing the amount reaching the ground, delaying and reducing peak flows
- Trees absorb significant amounts of water through their roots reducing overall water volume in flood-prone areas