

North West River Basin Planning Workshop:

We need your help to improve your local water environment

We are the Environment Agency and it's our job to make sure that air, land and water are looked after by everyone in today's society so that tomorrow's generations inherit a cleaner, healthier world.

Introduction to the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Planning

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is a new and exciting piece of EU legislation that joins together existing water legislation.

The aim is to deliver long-term protection of our rivers, estuaries, coastal areas, groundwaters and associated wetlands, to achieve the best possible environment for people and wildlife.

The WFD will enable us to improve the way we manage our water environment. It promotes the sustainable use of water and contributes to the way we manage floods, droughts and the risks posed by climate change.

You can find out more about how the WFD is being implemented on our website: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd

River Basin Planning in the North West

The North West River Basin District presents challenges and opportunities. The landscape encompasses the outstanding Cumbrian lakes and mountains, the seaside at Blackpool and the heritage of Manchester and Liverpool, homes of the industrial revolution. The district also contains many important areas for wildlife such as Morecambe Bay and the Bowland Fells.

The district faces many environmental challenges. It is home to over 6.8 million people, contains 18 per cent of England's derelict land and a third of the poorest quality rivers in England and Wales.

The WFD requires us to improve the ecology of our water environment. The River Basin Management Plan will set out how the Environment Agency and its partners will achieve this.

Identifying the problems

River Basin Management will enable the delivery of the WFD and allows us to identify and remedy specific issues that affect our waters.

We have monitored our water environment for many years enabling us to make assessments of the quality of our waters. The WFD sets new, tougher standards for our waters and assesses a greater number of parameters than in the past. The ultimate aim is to achieve Good Ecological Status in as many of our waterbodies as possible.

The WFD requires us to take into account all impacts on the water environment. There are a number of 'pressures' that have been used to determine the significant water management issues for the North West. These were consulted on last year and are as follows:-

- diffuse pollution from rural areas;
- diffuse pollution from roads and urban areas;
- pollution caused by discharges from industry;
- pollution caused by discharges from sewerage systems;
- physical modification.

And following consultation:

- water resources and flow issues.

We will be holding a series of catchment based workshops where people, organisations and businesses will be invited to debate these issues and identify realistic local solutions.

Stakeholder engagement

Working with others is vital to the WFD. To help us ensure we have a transparent process and active participation, we have set up a Liaison Panel which represent the views of many different sectors and groups.

The WFD provides an opportunity for everyone to get involved. There are implications for all sectors whose business or interest affects or is affected by the water environment. We are encouraging the involvement from individuals, groups and businesses who can help us understand and solve the North West's water problems through local knowledge and action.

Get involved

There are a number of ways you can find out more and get involved in the river basin planning process.

1. Through your liaison panel representative
2. Visit our website (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd)
3. Contact the River basin programme manager:
NorthwestRBD@environment-agency.gov.uk
4. Sign up to e-bulletins. Contact Jo Marriner on 01925 542 379 or at Jo.Marriner@environment-agency.gov.uk



Environment first: This publication is printed on Cyclus Offset – a recycled paper using 100 per cent previously used waste.

By-products from making the pulp and paper are used for composting and fertiliser, for making cement and for generating energy.