

Land Quality Programme

Goal: To promote integrated policies and practices that encourage the use and reuse of land in a way that protects human health and the environment.



Regeneration: That policy to return land to beneficial use at an EU, national, and local level reflects best practice.

	Objective	Actions
1	To support the land quality community in the delivery of national brownfield regeneration.	Act as an influential advisor for land quality practitioners
		Act as a voice to government for the land quality community, including responding to relevant consultations
		Support the development of a national land quality training programme
		Support land quality practitioners in the delivery of brownfield regeneration
		Provide ongoing and up to date training
2	To encourage the integration of initiatives and themes across the UK relating to a brownfield strategy in its broader sense.	Liaise with development agencies to ensure brownfield strategies set out a clear definition of “brownfield” and include challenging objectives that fit in with other related policy areas.
		Build partnerships with other groups that have similar objectives to achieve common goals
		Identify the Environmental Protection UK role in supporting the delivery of brownfield strategies
3	To support a reduction in the threats to land quality that are identified within the Soil Thematic Strategy	Work with Government and others to raise awareness of issues and possible solutions
		Work with researchers and academics
4	To increase influence on policy development at EU level	Develop and maintain links with counterparts and policy makers in member states
		Develop and maintain links with EU policy makers
		Increase the role of Environmental Protection UK in European campaigning and lobbying
		Monitoring policy developments at EU & National level and informing members of developments

Assessment: To support the development and implementation of accurate and credible land quality assessment methods

	Objective	Actions
1	To support the adoption of an EU Soil Framework Directive that includes a meaningful definition of contaminated land and an appropriate set of obligations for member states	<p>Liaise with EU policy makers and others on the role and appropriate development of the Soils Framework Directive</p> <p>Lobby Government on the role and appropriate development of the Soils Framework Directive</p>
2	To support the adoption of appropriate risk assessment methods for all relevant receptors	<p>Promote the use of sound, reliable and justifiable toxicological data for substances used in the development of Soil Guideline Values, Generic Assessment Criteria and Detailed Quantitative Risk Analysis</p> <p>Liaise with Government to ensure that risk assessment methods are fit for purpose</p> <p>Encourage continual review of scientific advances</p> <p>Support research initiatives aimed at clarifying and reinforcing basic risk assessment principles</p> <p>Ensure appropriate guidance on risk estimation is in place with respect to natural contamination</p> <p>Ensure risks to non human receptors such as the water environment, terrestrial ecosystems, property and wider environment are covered by appropriate guidance and risk assessment methods</p>
3	To encourage the consistent uptake of clear and appropriate risk assessment methods by the UK land quality community.	<p>Produce and encourage the production of land quality guidance that is comprehensive, appropriate and widely disseminated</p> <p>Identify gaps in land quality guidance</p> <p>Ensure that approaches to land quality are informed by the latest scientific research by building links with Universities and other relevant research groups</p>

Management: To support continual improvement in the standard of professional practice in land quality management.

	Objective	Actions
1	To support the development of cross sectoral land quality competencies	Work with others to achieve consensus on an appropriate competency framework and the measures needed to ensure wide support and uptake
		Support the development of job descriptions and competencies across the sectors
2	To support the establishment of an accreditation scheme for land quality practitioners	Bring together key organisations to achieve consensus on how to establish an effective national scheme for practitioners at all levels
		Consult with land quality practitioners
3	To support the establishment of a national land quality training programme and its effective governance and administration	Encourage all key organisations to become involved and committed
		Consult with land quality practitioners on training gaps
		Consult with training providers to build a picture of existing training programmes and materials
		Consider possible options for combining existing and developing new training programmes
4	To encourage an integrated approach to management, which recognises the interface between contaminated land, sustainable development and other environmental requirements	Work with Government and others to raise awareness of holistic and sustainable approaches to land quality management
		Develop guidance for land quality practitioners on sustainable approaches
		Provide training on integrated approaches
5	To encourage the allocation of appropriate and sufficient resources for the effective management of contaminated land	Lobby Government and the private sector to demonstrate cost benefits of providing adequate resources
		Monitor the provision of resources
6	To support the establishment of a system for providing central expert advice that facilitates the co-ordination and exchange of information for the public and private sectors	Bring together key organisation to explore what kind of organisation/body could effectively facilitate such a system and how it should operate
		Lobby government and key organisations with appropriate recommendations
		Monitor the quality of central expert advice

Regulation: To encourage the understanding and consistent application of regulation to improve land quality

	Objective	Actions
1	To support the land quality community in understanding regulatory processes and their implications	Support the development of appropriate 'standardised' documentation and other aids to assist in effective delivery of the Part 2A regime and planning processes
		Support the establishment of a coherent national training programme for land quality professionals
2	To support the improvement of methods for objectively measuring performance of land quality practitioners	Lobby Government, respond to relevant consultations and liaise with other like minded groups
		Consult with land quality practitioners
		Support initiatives to improve local authority performance measures
3	To encourage the allocation of adequate resources to enable regulators to carry out land quality duties and responsibilities effectively	Work with like minded groups (including the private sector) to lobby Government for appropriate resource provision

Remediation: To encourage the appropriate, efficient and sustainable remediation of land

	Objective	Actions
1	To promote non dig and dump remedial techniques and verification tools	Raise awareness and promote dissemination of existing guidance
		Provide training on alternative technologies
		Work with local authorities and others to provide case studies and promote existing demonstration projects
2	To encourage the development of improved guidance on assessing the cost benefits of the range of remediation technologies, to include environmental impacts and climate change considerations	Support the development of guidance on remediation technologies
		Lobby for consistency with other environmental policy drivers, such as the Waste and Water Framework Directives
3	Promote the use of the definition of waste that facilitates brownfield development, whilst ensuring environmental protection and implementation of the waste framework directive.	Support the development of methods to assess the suitability of treated soils/outputs from hub sites.