



Vision & Strategy

Vision

Supporting ecologists to champion evidence-based policy development in England.

Strategic Aims

To support and provide opportunities for ecologists to engage with policymakers and contribute to policy development.

To proactively supply the ecological evidence to inform policymakers and associated teams, and facilitate the collaboration with experts.

To deliver a range of key activities to upskill the ecological community, develop a network of knowledge holders and facilitate their engagement in environmental policy.

Implementation Plan

Policy training activities

Develop tiered policy training programme and other policy training events alongside policy training videos and England-specific policy guides. This will help upskill ecologists (particularly early career researchers and students) to facilitate their engagement in policymaking processes.

Horizon scanning

Horizon scanning exercise carried out annually to help the EPG to prioritise efforts and anticipate upcoming environmental policy topics for the year and further into the future. This may be carried out internally or with wider EPG membership (TBC) for training and networking purposes. This can be used as a baseline for evaluation at the end of the year.

Consultation and inquiry responses

The Committee will respond to relevant Government consultations and Parliamentary inquiries where time and resource permits. This may be supported by a workshop

with the wider EPG membership early in the process to ensure the response captures a breadth of ideas and to involve members in policymaking processes.

Policy debates and other events (including policy teach-ins)

Aim to hold 1-2 events open to the public, in person or online. This will help build the EPG network and foster connections between the distinct communities of policymakers, researchers and professionals. This will also help with broadening the skillsets of ecologists through engaging with diverse perspectives and dynamic conversations.

Policy teach-ins will help build strong links between expert ecologists and policy teams within government/statutory agencies, allowing informal exchanges of knowledge and evidence on relevant topics. This will facilitate a two-way flow of communications to provide evidence as well as insight into policy processes and evidence gaps.

Communications

Develop a range of communications such as regular (e.g. quarterly) blogposts on a range of current topics as well as providing details of resources from other organisations. Also develop a series of English policy guides. This will help keep EPG members up to date with current policy affairs and act as a chance to promote any opportunities.

Use mailing list to connect with EPG membership as well as to provide a questionnaire to establish priorities, interests and areas they most need training on.

Networking

Engage with the wider non-governmental organisation network and groups with different remits to the BES, such as CIEEM. Also try to connect with groups such as the Local Government Association and the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology. This would help facilitate two-way knowledge exchange and collaboration, as well as the EPG potentially being able to provide ecological expertise to groups where there are knowledge gaps.

Internal teach-ins

Guest speakers to give talks to members of the EPG (e.g. relating to one of their workstreams such as drafting a consultation response). This would help build in-house knowledge as well as building the EPG network.

Similarly, the members of the EPG aim to provide closed meeting talks to policymakers in order to provide specialist technical information on a specific topic that they are interested on acquiring more knowledge on.