

Thames River Basin District

Water Framework Directive

Welcome to the latest issue of the Thames River Basin newsletter. We want to update you on the progress we have made. Work on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is progressing well and our draft Thames River Basin plan was released for public consultation on the 22 December 2008.

Have Your Say on the future of Thames River Basin.

This important and ambitious piece of European legislation gives us all the opportunity to improve the quality and wildlife of our rivers and lakes, and the sustainability of groundwaters.

Our water environment has been transformed beyond all recognition over the past few decades, with improvements in river quality recorded every year for the past 18 years. However, there is still work to be done. There are 608 water bodies within the Thames River Basin District. Under the new stricter WFD monitoring regime 8% are rated good or higher and 92% are currently failing.

The WFD is all about partnership and everyone has a role to play. We want to listen to your views and priorities to help shape the Thames Basin's water environment.

The Consultation

The consultation is out for six months starting on the 22 December 2008 until the 22 June 2009. The consultation can be found at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd along with information about the WFD, this includes:

- An Introduction to the WFD
- Copy of the Draft Thames River Basin District Management Plan
- How the WFD will happen
- Information on all the river basin districts
- How the WFD will affect your sector
- 'Summary Sheets' - will soon be available. These are information documents on our priority water bodies.
- Links to 'What's in my Back Yard'

What's in my Back Yard is an interactive map where you can enter a post code or place name and find out environmental information in that area.

How to get involved

We want to work with you to get to know your issues and opinions. There are a number of workshops looking at the Thames River Basin District being run in February and March. These are sector based workshops looking at specific aspects of the plan.

We may also be able to send a WFD expert to speak at meetings that you are arranging.

If you would like to attend any of these workshops or are interested in having a speaker then please ring Andy Turton on 0118 9535100 or send an e-mail to ThamesRBD@environment-agency.gov.uk



Update on Liaison Panel Meetings

The Liaison Panel have now met twelve times as a group and we have also met with them in individual sector meetings.

The panel have now reviewed the draft River Basin Management Plan and helped us produce the document.

The next meeting of the Liaison Panel is on the 30 April 2009.

Minutes from these meetings and a list of the representatives on the panel can be viewed on our web pages.

www.environment-agency.co.uk/wfd

WFD Planning Timetable

The planning process can be divided into a number of stages. In the first cycle, these are:

- **December 2008** consultation launch of the draft River Basin Management Plan
- **December 2009** publish the first River Basin Management Plan
- **2015** review and publish the second River Basin Management plan

Do you want to hear more?

We have a large database of people interested in getting involved in river basin planning. Please tell us if we need to update our records, and if you know of anyone else that might want to get involved. If you want to opt out of future mailings please let us know.

Thames Liaison Panel Members		
Representing	Organisation	Name
Boat Users	The Barge Association	Andrew Soper
Business & Industry	RWE Npower	Neil Edwards
Consumers	Consumer Council for Water (CCW)	Andrew Whetnall
Environment Agency	Environment Agency	Howard Davidson, Regional Director
Farming	Country Land and Business Association (CLA)	Rupert Ashby
Fisheries	NAFAC & IFM	Chris Poupard
Greater London Authority (GLA)	Greater London Authority (GLA)	Kevin Reid
Local Authorities	Association of Councils of the Thames Valley Region (ACTVaR)	Barry Deller
Natural England	Natural England	Russ Money
Non Government Organisations	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	Frank Lucas
Ports	Port of London Authority (PLA)	Richard Everitt
Regional Assembly	South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA)	Jorn Peters
London Councils	London Borough of Hounslow	Cllr Barbara Reid
River Thames	River Thames Partnerships	Jason Debney
Water Companies	Thames Water	Richard Aylard

More information

For more information on the Water Framework Directive, please contact Andy Turton on: 0118 9535100 or andy.turton@environment-agency.gov.uk

For general information on WFD, log on to: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd

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