

Scotland's Environment Web State of the Environment Report

1. Background

For the first time, many of the organisations responsible for regulating and improving the environment are working together to publish the condition of 'Our Environment' on Scotland's Environment Web. The information contained within the 'Our Environment' section is Scotland's statutory State of the Environment (SoE) Report, providing the public with an authoritative and impartial assessment of different aspects of Scotland's environment.

The SoE Report aims to:

- clearly explain the state of the environment;
- determine if, and how, the environment is changing, what causes the changes and the impacts these changes have on the wider environment, society and the economy;
- summarise the key messages about the environment; and
- highlight the actions required to protect the environment.



2. Key Messages and Opportunities

- The SoE Report is well founded in evidence and promotes discussion and challenge. Visitors are invited and encouraged to comment on the assessment of Scotland's environment and give their views on the environmental issues covered.
- Information on a range of topics is provided by experts in the relevant field and the number of topics will progressively increase and develop over time.
- The way the information is presented will be developed using a number of tools and techniques including info graphics, podcasts and videos. This will make the 'Our Environment' pages more interactive and less static, keeping the audience interested and encouraging them to return.
- The production of the Report is overseen by an [editorial group](#). Members represent a number of organisations and bring a range of skills and experience to the group, covering all the main aspects of the environment. The editorial group acts as an independent review and ensures the text is consistent, balanced and accurate.



3. State of Environment Reporting

The SoE Report published on Scotland's Environment Web covers a number of environmental topics. These topics include:

Air and climate : The climate is changing and air quality continues to impact human health. Good air quality is fundamental to survival.

Built environment : Scotland's built environment comprises of the cities, towns and the greenspaces within them. The majority are generally good places to live, but there are still issues such as poor air quality, litter and noise.

Natural resources : Scotland has a wide range of resources that are important to the economy, but these resources require attentive and careful management is necessary to ensure sustainability.

Land : Scotland must achieve a balance between protecting the environment and benefits such as the production of food, the management of forests and enjoyment of recreational opportunities.

Society : The environment provides a wide range of essential goods and services on which health

and well-being depend, including food, clean air and water.

Wildlife: Scotland's plants, animals and habitats are distinctive and diverse. The state of wildlife is a reflection of the health of our environment, and the ecosystem services that sustain us.

Water : Water is vital to all aspects of life and livelihood - gross pollution has been largely eliminated but managing water quality and quantity has never been more pressing.

In **summary**, Scotland's environment is generally in good condition. We rely on and need to make the best use of our natural capital, which has been valued at over £20 billion per year.

Scotland's Environment Web wants to progressively increase the information available and new topics will be developed and added over time.

Topics will be kept up-to-date and users can see when topics have been updated by the date stamp at the bottom of the page.

4. Key Contacts

If you are interested in finding out more about the State of Environment Reporting, the Scotland's Environment Web (LIFE+) project or have any comments about the website, contact: seweb.administrator@sepa.org.uk



5. Supporting Documents

Our Environment
Editorial group factsheet

