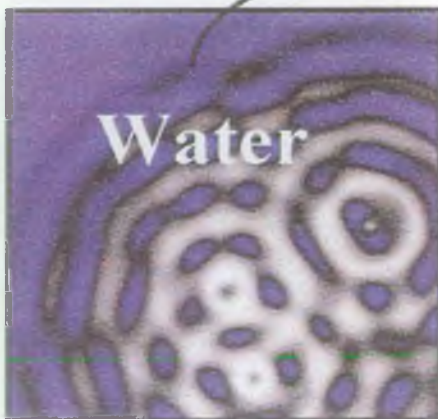




# LOCAL AGENDA 21

## Information Pack



ENVIRONMENT  
AGENCY



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

NATIONAL LIBRARY &  
INFORMATION SERVICE

ANGLIAN REGION

Kingfisher House, Goldhay Way,  
Orton Goldhay,  
Peterborough PE2 5ZR

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



089692

This book is due for return on or before the last date shown below.

~~15/12/00~~

## Contents

	Page
1. <b>The Environment Agency's Vision</b>	3
2. <b>Background to the Information Pack</b>	4
3. <b>The Environment Agency and Sustainable Development</b>	5
4. <b>How the Environment Agency Can Help</b>	9
5. <b>The Way Forward</b>	14
6. <b>Available Information</b>	16
7. <b>Contacting the Environment Agency Anglian Region</b>	17

## 1. The Environment Agency's Vision

**The Environment Agency was established in April 1996 by bringing together the responsibilities of the National Rivers Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, the Waste Regulation Authorities and some technical units of the Department of the Environment.**

**Our vision is:**

**A better environment in England and Wales for present  
and future generations.**

## 2. Background to the Information Pack

The Environment Agency has an important role to play in promoting sustainable development and supporting the Agenda 21 process. This is emphasised by the vision that we have set ourselves, as guardians of the environment, to protect and improve the environment for future generations. Our newly published document "An Environmental Strategy for the Millennium and Beyond" gives an overview of how we will achieve this vision.

### Purpose of the Pack

This information pack sets out to describe the Environment Agency's role in promoting and supporting the principles of sustainable development in Anglian Region. It explains how we can contribute through **participation, education and partnerships** to the Local Agenda 21 process.

### Who is this Pack for?

This pack has primarily been compiled for **local authority officers** involved in the Agenda 21 process. It sets out the role we can play and the information we can provide to assist them, and their local communities, to work towards achieving sustainable development.

We also hope that voluntary and community groups and members of the public interested in Local Agenda 21 will find the pack useful. Additional information can be obtained by contacting

the Agency directly, contact details are included at the end of the pack.

### Using the Pack

The pack briefly describes the objectives of sustainable development and the Agenda 21 process. It then relates these to the Agency's key areas of interest.

It is intended that this pack acts as a catalyst to the process, to consider the Agency's role in LA21 and therefore provides a flavour of the information and resources offered by the Agency .

The pack explains how we can become involved in the Local Agenda 21 process, the information we can supply and our vision for the way forward.

### 3. The Environment Agency and Sustainable Development

#### How We Will Work Towards Sustainable Development

The Environment Agency cannot itself achieve sustainable development, but it has a crucial role to play in operating a regulatory framework to ensure that the activities we regulate are helping to achieve sustainable development.

To contribute towards the objective of attaining sustainable development we will take the following steps whilst discharging our responsibilities:

- adopt a **holistic approach** to the protection and enhancement of the environment, taking account of the impacts of pollution across all media - air, land and water.
- take a **long term perspective** and pay special attention to issues that will affect future generations.
- maintaining **biodiversity** is an essential element of sustainable development. We will pay particular attention to our statutory obligations with respect to conservation of flora and fauna.
- work in **partnership with business** to reconcile the needs of the environment and development and promote **improved technologies and management techniques**.
- strive to develop **close and responsive relationships** with the public, local

authorities and other representatives of local communities and regulated organisations.

- provide **quality information and advice** on the environment.

#### Our Main Areas of Responsibility and Their Contribution to Sustainable Development

The creation of the Environment Agency provides an opportunity for more coherent and integrated environmental protection and enhancement. It is therefore important for us to keep in mind the potential impacts our actions may have on the **environment taken as a whole**. The following sections explain how our main functions can contribute to sustainable development.

##### *Pollution Control*

*Integrated Pollution Control (IPC)*: recognises the principles of sustainable development through the use of the concepts of BATNEEC (best available techniques not entailing excessive costs) and BPEO (best practicable environmental option). Taken together, these two concepts are designed to control levels of pollution from installations covered by IPC and to recognise society's interests in the environment and industry, in both the short and the long term.

*Air Strategy:* the Government's air quality strategy requires objectives for the concentrations in air of key pollutants by target dates. These objectives are based on expert scientific assessment of the health effects of the pollutants concerned, and the 'carrying capacity' of the environment. Whilst local authorities will take the lead, we will have due regard for the air quality strategy, particularly when we regulate sectors of industry producing significant quantities of the pollutants covered by the strategy.

*Radioactive Substances:* the radiation protection principles and criteria adopted and applied by the regulatory bodies, such as the Agency and the Health and Safety Executive will ensure that there is no unacceptable risk associated with radioactive waste management.

*Waste Regulation:* 'Making Waste Work - A Strategy for Waste Management in England and Wales' sets out the Government's policies for waste management over the next decade, within the context of its overall approach to sustainable development. We have an important role to play, in partnership with local authorities, in helping to achieve the aims and objectives of this strategy and thereby contributing to sustainable development.

*Water Protection:* our policy objective for water protection is part of our integrated approach to environmental protection. Limits are set to discharges to the water environment and receiving waters are monitored by the Agency on a regular basis. We also work to reduce water pollution incidents and co-ordinate action to alleviate effects and trace sources. These actions help to achieve the Water Quality

Objectives set for each river and ensure the quality of the Region's groundwater resource.

*Contaminated Land:* the principle aim of the Agency is to secure with others the remediation of contaminated land. Our advice will reflect the Government's commitment to the 'suitable for use' approach to the control and treatment of contamination as set out in 'A Framework for Contaminated Land'. This approach supports sustainable development both by reducing the damage from past activities and by encouraging such land to be kept in, or returned to, beneficial use wherever practicable. This consequently reduces development pressure on green field sites.

### *Water Management*

*Water Resource Control:* 'Water Resources in Anglia - A Sustainable Strategy for Secure Water Supplies and a Better Water Environment' was prepared by the National Rivers Authority in 1994. This acknowledges the frequently competing requirements of human beings, enterprises of various kinds, natural habitats, fisheries, recreation and navigation. We will be working to ensure the sustainable use of water resources in the Anglian region, balancing the needs of the environment and those of abstractors. An update to the strategy will be produced by the end of 1999.

*Flood Defence:* the aim of our policy on flood and coastal defence is to reduce the risks to people and to the developed and natural environment from flooding and coastal erosion. The safeguarding of life is clearly the highest priority, but environmental and economic factors need to be fully integrated. Sustainable





schemes need to assess their effects on natural processes and determine whether they are committing future generations to inflexible and expensive options of defence. Our publication 'Policy and Practice for the Protection of Floodplains' explains the Agency's approach.

*Conservation:* we aim to further the interests of conservation whilst carrying out all our other functions, including the conservation of natural beauty, flora, fauna, geological and physiographical features and the historic environment. We do this in consultation and partnership with many other bodies involved in conservation.

*Fisheries:* our work, and that of our predecessors, on the management of salmonid and freshwater fisheries has long been based on the principles underlying sustainable development and we aim to maintain, improve and develop such fisheries.

*Recreation:* we have a duty to promote the use of inland and coastal waters and associated land where it is considered desirable for recreational purposes. In doing so we take account of the needs of all sections of society.

*Navigation:* in carrying out our navigation duties we have to consider landscape, nature and archaeological conservation and environmental protection and enhancement.

### **Land Use Planning**

We are involved with the land use planning system in a number of ways, including:

- responding to consultations by planning authorities on planning applications;

- providing certain types of information to developers and
- commenting on development plans.

We aim to promote sustainable development through the information and advice we provide and, where appropriate, the conditions we recommend and impose. Our contribution is explained in a manual on 'liaison with Local Planning Authorities'

### **Current Environment Agency Initiatives Towards Sustainable Development**

#### ***The Agency's Snapshot***

In order to further the objectives of sustainable development it is clearly important to increase the information available on pressures and states relating to the environment of England and Wales. When the Agency was established in April 1996 we published 'The Environment of England and Wales - A Snapshot'<sup>1</sup> to make a contribution to the data available.

This contains a very brief summary or 'snapshot' of environmental information collected from our formative bodies, and from a number of other sources in order to put our own role in perspective. The information contained within the report is now on the Internet making it more widely available. The snapshot will be updated on the Internet as more information becomes available.

---

<sup>1</sup> The information contained in this report is now contained on the World Wide Web - forming an important part of the Agency's home page. [WWW\http.Environment-Agency.Gov.uk](http://WWW.Environment-Agency.Gov.uk)



---

## *Other Initiatives*

*Source Control:* we are researching techniques for the disposal of run-off from development and any constraints on a river catchment basis.

*Sewerage capacity:* we can advise on where, due to lack of capacity of sewage treatment works, new development could cause a river to fail to meet its water quality objectives.

*Definition of floodplains:* we are currently formulating a programme of defining floodplains for use by local authorities in land use planning.

*Water efficiency and demand management:* making efficient use of water is an integral component of our ongoing strategy for the sustainable management of water resources.

*Policy options for waste disposal:* we are developing a sustainable strategy towards waste disposal in the Anglian Region.

*Habitat enhancement and rehabilitation:* we have a programme of activities aimed at enhancing the physical habitat of the river corridors and floodplains.

*Indicators:* we are developing a set of indicators to monitor the state of, and changes to the environment.

## 4. How the Environment Agency Can Help

Details of how to contact us at the Environment Agency Anglian Region are set out at the end of this information pack. Your main point of contact will be an officer from Customer Services in one of our three Area Offices. Should you require detailed information related to one of our functions, they will be able to put you in touch with the appropriate officer.

There are many different ways we can help with your Local Agenda 21 initiative, but we have highlighted five that are particularly important below:

- available information;
- presentations;
- Local Environment Agency Plans;
- environmental education; and
- environmental indicators.

### Available Information

Much of the regular work of the Agency is key to the Local Agenda 21 process and we want the information we collect to be as widely available as possible. We also think it is important to avoid duplication of information collection. We would therefore encourage groups to contact us to find out what information we have about your area and to use our knowledge and expertise.

Making the best use of available scientific information is one of the most important ways we can contribute to the Local Agenda 21 process. Within Anglian Region there are a total of 59 local authorities, including:

- 7 County Councils

- 48 District and Borough Councils
- 4 Unitary Authorities (7 by April 1998)

You will appreciate, therefore, that there will be many Local Agenda 21 initiatives within our region and it will not be possible for us to attend every meeting within every local authority. However, we would like to participate at critical stages in the process and when our expertise is particularly relevant. We have set out on page 12 some examples to illustrate how we have been involved in Local Agenda 21 in the past.

We can advise you of the relevant information that is available for your area and supply a list of information leaflets and documents. You should also refer to our leaflet - 'A Guide to Information Available to the Public'.

### Local Environmental Agency Plans

Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs) have a key role to play in our involvement in the Local Agenda 21 process. They represent a two way process of disseminating information, by:

- 1) allowing local people to participate and have a direct say in the management of their environment and
- 2) helping us to identify actions to improve the situation on the ground.

LEAPs illustrate that through partnership we can all make a difference to our local environment.



We have illustrated this point on page 13 by showing how we can all contribute to conserving water.

Local Environment Agency Plans address the full range of our new responsibilities, including air quality, protection of the water environment and waste disposal.

LEAPs are an important step in informing, planning and co-ordinating actions for the environment in order to achieve improvements on the ground. They are non-statutory documents produced by the Agency in consultation with others to:-

- focus attention on the environment of specific areas;
- involve all interested parties in planning for the future well being of the plan area;
- agree a vision for the plan area which helps to guide activities over the next 10-20 years;
- establish an integrated strategy related to the functions of the Agency
- and outline a plan of action for managing and improving the plan area over the next 5 years.

Community involvement in the preparation of LEAPs is very important as the action identified in the plan will be used by the Agency and others as the basis for deciding the future allocation of resources for improving the environment.

Improved communications and partnership working will be the key to successful action and involvement on the ground. Activities will be most effective if the

weight of public support is behind them. In addition, to achieve the most we must ensure that diverse actions are co-ordinated between the large number of organisations that have the ability and responsibility to tackle problems.

We are in the process of producing LEAPs to cover the entire Region. We can supply details of the LEAP programme and which LEAP areas fall within your local authority area. These documents include a wealth of information on the use and condition of the environment in a local area and should be a useful source of data for Local Agenda 21 groups.

Local authorities are key partners in all our LEAPs and a facilitator for actions on the ground. In the future, Local Agenda 21 groups with an interest in their local environment will need to be an equally important focus for participation.

## **Environmental Education**

Agenda 21 sets targets for change and makes it clear that all sectors of society need to work together to make that change happen. It stresses the need to involve certain sectors of society including young people.

The central objective of Agenda 21 is a move towards sustainable development by local communities. This encompasses social, economic and environmental aspects taking action to preserve the environment so it will provide basic needs (e.g. fresh air, clean water and adequate food) both now and in the future. Therefore, from the perspective of community well-being there are obvious links between Local Agenda 21



initiatives, young people and the work of the Agency.

The Environment Agency considers that Environmental Education is an important part of environmental protection. An interactive CD ROM is being piloted in a number of schools, which holds information and a lifestyles audit questionnaire. Members of staff also make time (when possible and in addition to their daily duties) to respond effectively to requests to give school talks across the range of our functions and provide information.

We are keen to ensure that environmental education can also apply to other sectors of the local community. The Agency is currently involved in a number of local waste minimisation schemes with both large and smaller businesses. Pollution prevention officers visit farms and industrial sites to educate on limiting impacts on the environment. We would be keen to alert LA21 groups of these initiatives in the local area and also to use such groups to help get across the education message.

## **Presentations**

The Agency has a role not just in education but also giving presentations on our wider roles. Staff have spoken to various local groups and have given time to LA21 groups. This has entailed giving an outline of the Agency as a whole and also talks on more specific issues such as waste minimisation or water quality.

As stated previously, the Environment Agency in Anglian region covers a large number of councils. To make effective presentations, we would like a good period of notice and also to ensure a fair

distribution across the region. The wider the audience the Agency can reach at each presentation, such as county groupings, the easier it is for us to cover the region. Please be aware that we are unlikely to be able to make a presentation to each group in a year.

## **Environmental Indicators**

Environmental indicators are a useful tool for local authorities and communities to use to measure success in moving towards local sustainability. They help to simplify the measurement of environmental objectives and provide an excellent means of communicating environmental information

We are aware of a growing requirement for input into such indicators. However, in the past whilst the Agency has collected a wealth of information, much of it has not been in a form that can be used in local studies. In Anglian region we are in the early stages of developing indicators for use in our LEAPs. These will be used to judge how well the Agency is performing in moving towards sustainable development. Such indicators will hopefully coincide with those of local communities and can provide an excellent means of integrating the two processes.

However, it should be noted that although we can provide a lot of information not all of it can be tailored to your specific area or updated on an annual basis.

## Examples of what Anglian Region can give to Local Agenda 21

Environment Agency staff have been involved in **Norfolk 21** and **Norfolk County Council** meetings to discuss the role of the county in taking LA21 forward. An Agency officer leads the **Norfolk 21** water pollution working group.

The **Norwich 21** document includes water quality as one of the sustainability indicators for the city. The Agency has supplied data covering the past ten years and will be updating this information annually each summer.

The Agency presented a paper at the launch of the **North Lincolnshire Council** Local Agenda 21 group, outlining what the Agency does and how we can be involved in partnership with other organisations to help improve the local environment.

**Suffolk Coastal** and **North Norfolk** have Agency staff on their forums and have benefited from talks given on the role of the Agency.

**Lincolnshire County Council** set up a **Lincolnshire Environment Forum** in 1996. The Agency is closely involved with the County Council and all the organisations involved on the Forum, particularly relating to issues such as the protection of groundwater resources and waste minimisation.

**Essex County Council** have recently been supplied with environmental information for their **Sustainability Report**. This included information on the quality of Essex rivers, biological information and details of water abstraction. This information can be used as a basis to judge the sustainability of future development.

The Agency is currently pursuing the possibility in entering into a joint venture with **Central and South Cambridgeshire Business Link** to promote awareness of and benefits to be gained from pollution prevention and waste minimisation to business in Cambridgeshire.

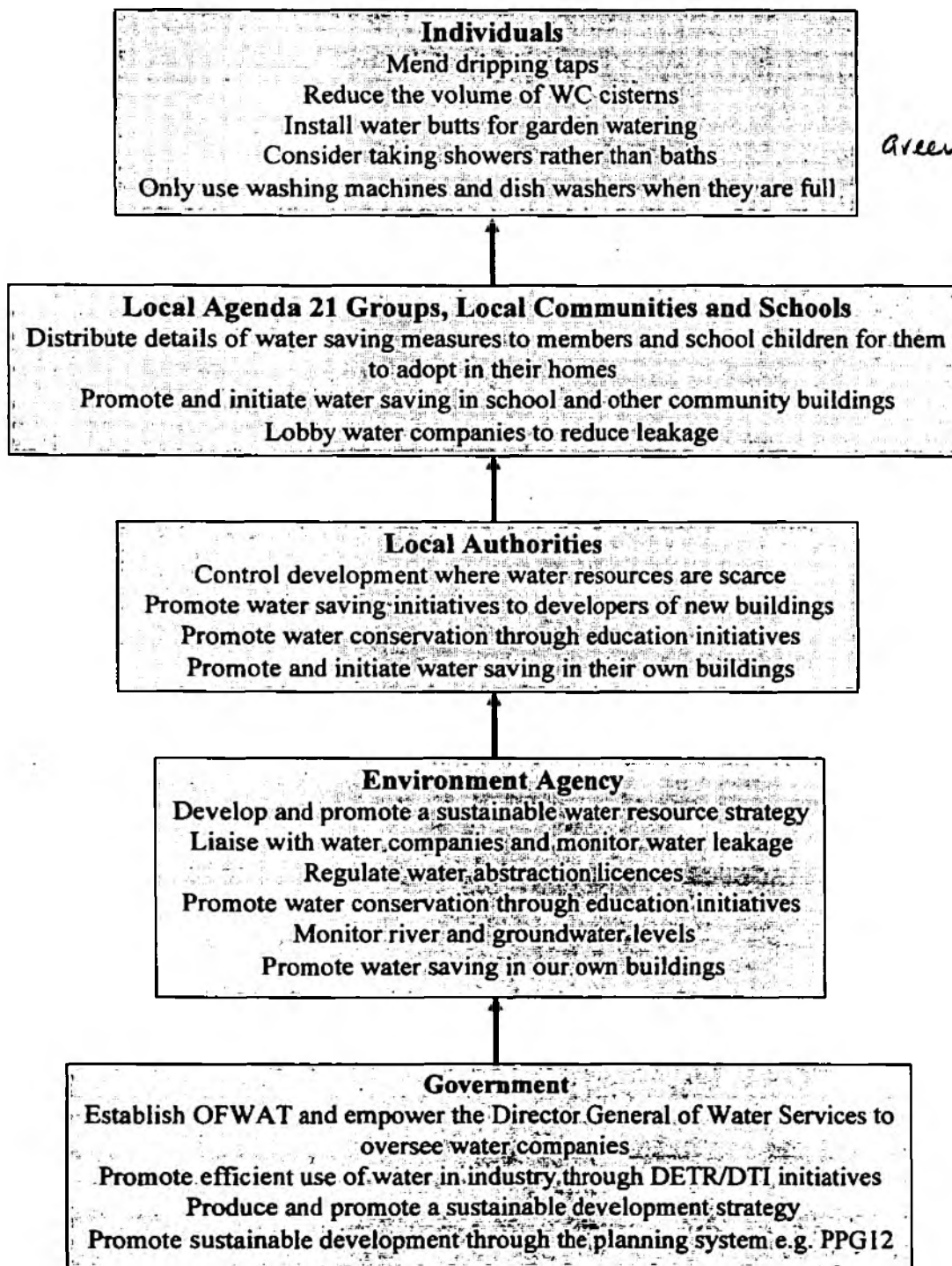
An interactive CD ROM developed in partnership with **Peterborough Environment City Trust** is now being sent as a pilot project to schools across the whole region. The CD ROM contains a lifestyles questionnaire and educational information on the environment for Key Stage 2.

The Agency is a member of the **Bedford Borough Local Agenda 21** group and have recently been involved in the production of the Bedford Borough Action plan and its Annual Review, principally with regard to waste management issues.



**An Example of 'Making a Difference'**  
**How we all can be involved in water conservation**

Everyone has a role to play in achieving sustainable development, from governments to individuals - we all can 'make a difference'. Below we have taken the example of water conservation to show some of the actions that can be taken at every level.



## 5. The Way Forward

This information pack has described our commitment to sustainable development and how each of our main functions are striving to implement this aim. We have had some involvement to date with Local Agenda 21 initiatives across the Region and we hope this continues albeit within the constraints of our core commitments. The involvement we have had has mainly been confined to the following areas:

- the provision of baseline data for State of the Environment Reports;
- giving talks or participating in exhibitions;
- membership of groups or committees;

This pack is only the start of the process and we are keen to hear how we can best assist each local authority with their Local Agenda 21 initiatives.

We have described some of the work we are currently pursuing and these along with the key initiatives set out below will hopefully make an important contribution to local sustainability:

- our water resources strategy;
- water quality objectives;
- the LEAP programme;
- targets on waste minimisation and disposal;
- environmental indicators;
- environmental baseline information.

The Local Agenda 21 process sets down a challenge for the future, the rewards of which are central to the Environment Agency's vision of a better environment for present and future generations. To articulate our commitment to Local Agenda 21 we have produced the following aim of our involvement in the process:

To work in partnership to support the involvement of local communities in their environment thereby developing a sense of ownership, pride and commitment that will help protect the environment for present and future generations. We will work with local authorities, Local Agenda 21 initiatives and other organisations to achieve this aim.

The checklist on the following page is to remind local authority officers involved in the Local Agenda 21 process how we can help:





## Local Agenda 21 Checklist

- identify your Environment Agency contact *(see pg 17)*.
- check the LEAP programme relevant to your area
- obtain relevant LEAPs
- identify relevant available information and issues
- discuss how we can best help

## 6. Available Information

The Environment Agency will be a useful source of data for you and other Agenda 21 Groups to use when gathering key facts for your area. We can supply:-

- information on our policies and strategies
- Environment Agency contact names and phone numbers for specific enquiries
- leaflets and other local information
- details of the LEAP programme and copies of plans that have been produced for your local area
- data for sustainability indicators for the land, air and water environment

## 7. Contacting the Environment Agency Anglian Region

**General Manager: Grainger Davies**

### **Regional Office**

Paul Dowie • Technical Planning Manager  
Kingfisher House • Goldhay Way • Orton Goldhay • Peterborough • PE2 5ZR

Tel 01733 371811  
Fax: 01733 231840

### **Northern Area Office**

Mervyn Pettifor  
Customer Services Manager  
Waterside House  
Waterside North  
Lincoln  
LN2 5HA

Tel: 01522 513100  
Fax: 01522 512927

### **Central Area Office**

Patrick Duffy  
Development Planning Officer  
Bromholme Lane  
Brampton  
Huntingdon  
PE18 8NE

Tel: 01480 414581  
Fax: 01480 413381

### **Eastern Area Office**

Michael Guthrie  
Development Planning Officer  
Cobham Road  
Ipswich  
Suffolk  
IP3 9JE

Tel: 01473 727712  
Fax: 01473 724205

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  
EMERGENCY HOTLINE**

**0800 80 70 60**

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE**

**0645 333 111**

The 24-hour emergency hotline for reporting all environmental incidents relating to air, land and water.



# ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

## NORTHERN AREA

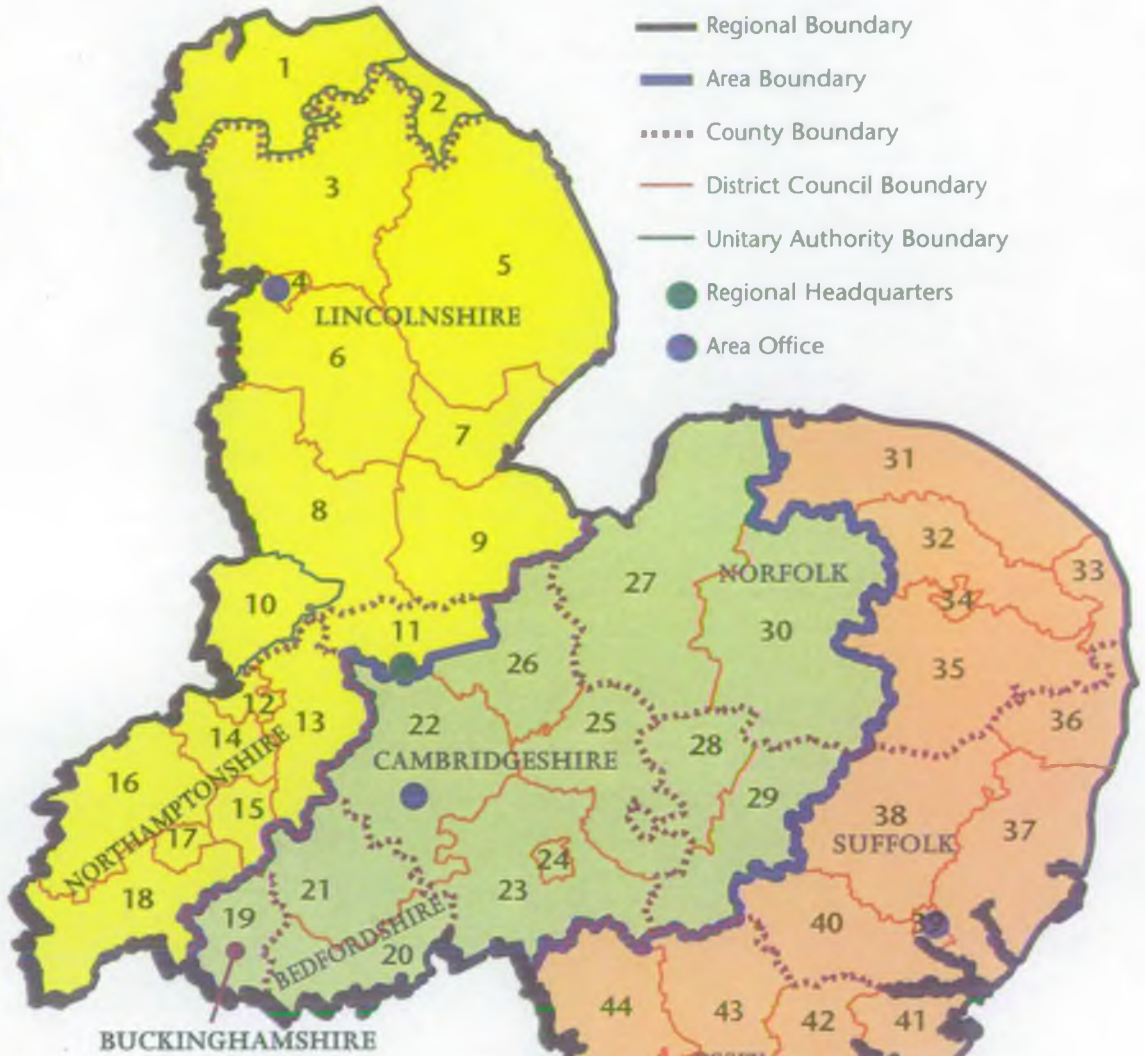
- 1 North Lincolnshire
- 2 Northeast Lincolnshire
- 3 West Lindsey
- 4 Lincoln
- 5 East Lindsey
- 6 North Kesteven
- 7 Boston
- 8 South Kesteven
- 9 South Holland
- 10 Rutland
- 11 Peterborough
- 12 Corby
- 13 East Northants
- 14 Kettering
- 15 Wellingborough
- 16 Daventry
- 17 Northampton
- 18 South Northampton

## CENTRAL AREA

- 19 Milton Keynes
- 20 Mid Beds
- 21 Bedford Borough
- 22 Huntingdonshire
- 23 South Cambridgeshire
- 24 Cambridge
- 25 East Cambridgeshire
- 26 Fenland
- 27 Kings Lynn & West Norfolk
- 28 Forest Heath
- 29 St Edmunds Bury
- 30 Breckland

## EASTERN AREA

- 31 North Norfolk
- 32 Broadland
- 33 Great Yarmouth
- 34 Norwich
- 35 South Norfolk
- 36 Waveney
- 37 Suffolk Coastal
- 38 Mid Suffolk
- 39 Ipswich
- 40 Babergh
- 41 Tendring
- 42 Colchester
- 43 Braintree
- 44 Uttlesford
- 45 Chelmsford
- 46 Maldon
- 47 Rochford
- 48 Southend
- 49 Castle Point
- 50 Basildon
- 51 Brentwood
- 52 Thurrock



- Regional Boundary
- Area Boundary
- ..... County Boundary
- District Council Boundary
- Unitary Authority Boundary
- Regional Headquarters
- Area Office



# ANGLIAN REGION