

Research at EA

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How the Environment Agency carries out research, plus their programmes and partnerships.

Contents

1. [Research themes](#)
2. [Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management \(FCERM\) Research and Development](#)
3. [Research publications](#)
4. [Academic partnerships](#)
5. [Contact us](#)

Scientific research and analysis underpins what the Environment Agency does.

Our work depends on science and research - whether it's:

- delivering healthier air, land and water to support nature recovery
- contributing to sustainable growth
- ensuring we are a nation resilient to climate change

Research is carried out across the Environment Agency, by our national and regional teams, in the field, our laboratories and at desks. We work closely with partners in industry, academia and across government and the public sector. At the centre of our research effort, is a dedicated research team based in the Chief Scientist's Group.

We are committed to strengthening the impact of our knowledge and better integrating science into the heart of everything we do.

Our portfolio of research directly supports the delivery of the Environment Agency's corporate strategy EA2030, and Defra's Environmental Improvement Plan.

Research themes

The Chief Scientist's research portfolio spans 4 themes:

1. **Environment and human health** is researching the role that the environment plays in public and individual health.
2. **Protecting and enhancing ecosystems** is generating new understanding and approaches to strengthen the Environment Agency's response to threats to ecosystem health and support nature recovery.
3. **Net zero and circular economy** is generating new knowledge of the potential impacts, trade-offs and co-benefits of low-carbon technologies and activities on the environment and communities.

4. **Climate adaptation and resilience** is developing knowledge and understanding of climate impacts and about how to prepare for these, reduce vulnerabilities and build resilience to change.

We also carry out research specifically to help measure and assess chemical hazards and risks in support of the operational delivery of UK chemical legislation (UK REACH).

Underpinning and enabling our core research portfolio is our Research Hub. It leads the Environment Agency's relationship with UK research councils and facilitates our research design, delivery and dissemination, including our publications and science communications.

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Research and Development

A further significant and dedicated, national research programme is the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) research and development programme.

This partnership between Defra, Environment Agency, Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales is focussed, to 2028, on shared areas of FCERM research interest.

Research publications

All our scientific research work is published as summaries and reports, freely available to access via our publications catalogue.

Older publications are held in The National Archives.

Academic partnerships

We work with a wide range of academic partners, domestically and internationally, and are always interested in new partnership opportunities. Collaborating with the science community to drive innovation and impact is helping to build the Environment Agency's reputation as a world-class environmental regulator and practitioner.

The Environment Agency is a place-based organisation. We can help academic partners to demonstrate the impact of their research in applied situations, and show how research could inform policy or practice.

We also help develop environmental scientists of the future by co-supervising and providing placements for PhD students, and hosting fellowships or post-doc researchers. A placement at the Environment Agency provides valuable experience of working in a leading environmental public body.

Examples of how we can work with you include:

- supporting or co-developing research projects of mutual interest - as a public sector research establishment, the Environment Agency is eligible for UKRI funding
- hosting embedded researchers within the Environment Agency to enable genuine two-way exchange of knowledge, information and experience
- accessing and interpreting our extensive datasets - available via Defra's Data Services

Platform.

Contact us

For further information on:

- Research at the Environment Agency, including within the Chief Scientist's Group: contact the team at research@environment-agency.gov.uk
- The FCERM Research and Development Programme: contact the team at ferm.evidence@environment-agency.gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/research>