Our investment helps to shape and strengthen policies and decisions made at every level of government, including Parliament, central government, the devolved administrations, local government and government agencies.

Why it matters

The interests of government, society and the environment are inextricably linked. Each citizen depends on having a productive, healthy and resilient environment that contributes to the UK’s prosperity and wellbeing. From tackling challenges such as climate change, to seizing the opportunities offered by clean growth, environmental science lies at the heart of many key government actions and initiatives, such as the Industrial, Clean Growth and Clean Air Strategies and the 25-year Environment Plan.

What we did

NERC science has underpinned government policies for over 50 years and enabled the UK to take the global lead on a whole range of critical issues. We work hand in hand with government, business and wider society to identify sustainable new ways of boosting prosperity and escaping poverty, and to produce practical solutions to real-world challenges with an environmental dimension. Our funding for world-leading environmental science and scientists, combined with our support for long-term, large-scale research, provides government with robust, independent evidence and advice from experts that not only underpins policies and services but also enables the UK to meet its international commitments. We also ensure government rapid access to research infrastructure and expert advice during emergencies.

Overleaf, we present a selection of impacts and benefits that our investment in cutting-edge environmental science has delivered across the remit of government.

A productive partnership

Key facts and figures (2013-17):
- £27m contributed by the public sector to NERC initiatives, adding to our investment of £227m.
- 230 NERC grants* delivered in partnership with over 120 different public sector organisations.
- 1,220 NERC research papers** co-authored with over 100 different public sector partners.

* 8% of the total ** 6% of the total

1. Based on in-house analysis of impacts from NERC-funded activities

NERC solutions delivered across the public sector benefit UK economy and society

Solutions strengthen policy and decision-making* 

NERC investment in research, infrastructure and skills 

Agencies and other public bodies 

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy 

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport 

UK Parliament 

Scottish Government 

Cabinet Office 

Policing and fire services 

Ministry of Defence 

Department of Transport 

Foreign and Commonwealth Office 

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 

Department for International Development 

Non-ministerial departments 

HM Treasury 

Welsh Government 

Department of Health and Social Care 

Northern Ireland Executive 

UK prosperity and well-being

Contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

impact@nerc.ukri.org
We will continue to help government and other public sector organisations access the best science, skills and data. We are leading four UK partnerships with government and other partners, tackling major challenges by delivering high-quality interdisciplinary research through the UKRI Strategic Priorities Fund. With a total value of £59m, these are addressing clean air, climate resilience, landscape decisions and digital environment solutions.

NERC is also an active member of, and provide the Secretariat for, the Research & Innovation for our Dynamic Environment (RIDE Forum); comprising 20 public sector organisations who hold a stake in environmental change research, innovation, training and capabilities. The Forum aims to help provide decision-makers with the co-ordinated knowledge they need to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by environmental change.

**Investing for the future**

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3. See Impact Series: Turning trail-blazing science into agenda-setting TV.
5. See Impact Series: Saving our planet from a sea of plastic.

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