



# Environment Act 2021

## 2021 CHAPTER 30

### PART 1

#### ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

### CHAPTER 1

#### IMPROVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

#### *Environmental targets*

### **1 Environmental targets**

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations set long-term targets in respect of any matter which relates to—
  - (a) the natural environment, or
  - (b) people's enjoyment of the natural environment.
- (2) The Secretary of State must exercise the power in subsection (1) so as to set a long-term target in respect of at least one matter within each priority area.
- (3) The priority areas are—
  - (a) air quality;
  - (b) water;
  - (c) biodiversity;
  - (d) resource efficiency and waste reduction.
- (4) A target set under this section must specify—
  - (a) a standard to be achieved, which must be capable of being objectively measured, and
  - (b) a date by which it is to be achieved.

---

*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

---

- (5) Regulations under this section may make provision about how the matter in respect of which a target is set is to be measured.
- (6) A target is a “long-term” target if the specified date is no less than 15 years after the date on which the target is initially set.
- (7) A target under this section is initially set when the regulations setting it come into force.
- (8) In this Part the “specified standard” and “specified date”, in relation to a target under this section, mean the standard and date (respectively) specified under subsection (4).
- (9) The Secretary of State may not by regulations under this section make any provision which, if contained in an Act of Senedd Cymru, would be within the legislative competence of the Senedd.