

Consultation on Relationships and Sexuality Education launched

The Department of Education has launched a consultation seeking views on changes to elements of Relationships and Sexuality Education.

Scrapping 'nutrient neutrality' rules could lead to the ecological collapse of our waterways warn Greens



Green Party

29 August 2023

Responding to the news that the government is scrapping 'nutrient neutrality' rules as a way to boost house building [1], Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay has warned it could lead to the ecological collapse of our waterways and has repeated a call to take water back into public ownership.

Nutrient neutrality rules were put in place in 2017 by the EU. The rules prevent local authorities giving the go-ahead to new developments that are projected to add to river nutrients such as phosphates and nitrates, either through wastewater from new homes or run-off from building sites.

Ramsay said:

"It is beyond credulity that the government's answer to dealing with our toxic rivers is to water down regulations and allow even more filth to flow into them. There's a risk that scrapping nutrient neutrality rules will result in the complete ecological collapse of our waterways.

"Rather than weakening regulation we need firmer controls on private water companies and hugely profitable housebuilders. The Green Party would do this by taking water companies into public ownership, ending the siphoning off of profits to shareholders and investing instead in cleaning up our act. We'd

also have a clear focus on affordable, high quality and environmentally friendly homes, by investing in a large scale council house building programme.

“The government’s reckless actions once again put the spotlight on Labour. Will they pledge that a future Labour government will reinstate rules which prevent developments polluting our waterways?”

Notes

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/28/uk-rivers-at-risk-as-michael-gove-rips-up-rules-on-new-housing>

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)

[Public Intervention and Private Storage aid consultation launched](#)

A consultation on proposed amendments to retained direct EU legislation was today published by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

[Have your say on Northern Ireland’s emissions targets](#)

The first of three public consultation sessions on Northern Ireland’s Carbon Budget will be held this Thursday, 31 August.

[Urgent need for home insulation programme for poorest to start before](#)

winter



Green Party

25 August 2023

Responding to the new Ofgem price cap [1], Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay said:

“The new price cap underlines the urgent need for a government-backed home insulation programme targeted, in the first instance, at those most at risk of fuel poverty.

“The government should be announcing today funding and support for local councils to start a mass programme of cost-saving home insulation. With the right funding and determination, such a scheme could start to help people from this winter.

“Even with a lower price cap, bills are still higher than before the energy crisis and are likely to remain high for the future.

“Figures released earlier this week suggested that almost half of all British households – 13m homes – said they did not turn on their heating when it got cold last winter [2].

“The average home could save hundreds of pounds a year with decent insulation [3] and the government needs to support councils to reach them as soon as possible

“Insulating people’s homes means they can stay warm while using less energy, save money and produce fewer harmful carbon emissions.

“A mass programme of government-backed, council delivered home insulation starting before winter is a win-win solution for people and the planet.

“Government support should extend an emergency grant to homeowners and landlords aiming urgent support at those most in need.

“And it is well beyond time to break the link between electricity and gas prices that so distorts the market that it pushes up electricity prices for the public even as cheaper renewable electricity sources could be pushing prices down.

“We have the opportunity now, starting with support for the most at-risk

people, to create warmer, more comfortable homes and in the process create millions of jobs, reduce bills and cut carbon emissions.”

ENDS

Notes

1

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/energy-prices-fall-again-winter>

2

<https://www.which.co.uk/policy-and-insight/article/too-scared-to-put-the-heat-ing-on-13-million-households-not-heating-their-homes-when-its-cold-due-to-energy-bill-fears-which-warns-aXpY84U6BJaS>

3

<https://www.renewableenergyhub.co.uk/main/insulation/insulation-cost-and-savings>

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact the Press Office press@greenparty.org.uk 0203 691 9401

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)