



solar power
tea power

Environment & Business
Additional Information Pack
Senior Research Scientist Water Resources

John Leyland

Executive Director, Environment & Business

This is an exciting time to join us. The work we do and the outcomes we deliver are high profile with the Government, the media and the public. Illegal waste sites blight local neighbourhoods. Polluted streams, rivers, lakes and seas have a negative impact on the wildlife that depends on them and on local economies. Our hard work helps communities thrive, encourages healthy living and recreation and allows wildlife and the natural environment to flourish.

We place huge importance on health, safety and wellbeing and creating a respectful community. We want everyone to be able to be themselves and do their best work and to feel valued. We have over 150 trained Respect at Work advisors across the organisation, numerous staff led networks you can join and a large amount of training courses available for you to develop your skills and progress within your role or within the directorate.”

[Hear from our people.](#)



E&B Vision, Purpose and Role

Vision:

Create a better place for people and wildlife. Protect the environment and promote sustainable development.

Purpose:

Informing and delivering the government's key environmental objectives; using evidence, expertise, engagement, and innovation we influence policy and legislation, facilitate, and enhance integrated delivery and, by building trust in the EA, secure resources to do more for the environment.

Role:

We will make our contribution to sustainable development through protecting and enhancing the environment, restoring nature, and tackling climate change by:

- Setting long-term integrated strategy that influences policy and priorities across air, land, water, waste and resources.
- Securing funding, deploying resources in an agile and unbureaucratic way and ensuring that E&B activities are fully funded, affordable, and represent value for money.
- Ensuring the organisation develops and maintains E&B technical competence and resilience - setting clear standards, career pathways and learning resources.
- Establishing ourselves as a trusted, future-facing, and effective regulator by setting a modern regulatory cycle across all the regimes the EA regulates.
- Enabling better places by providing leadership and integrating all aspects of environmental planning.
- Ensuring the EA's decisions and plans are informed by robust science and evidence.
- Increasing customer, stakeholder and partner awareness of our work and its impact through proactive and reactive engagement.

Chief Scientist Group

Who we are and what we do:

The Chief Scientist's Group is led by Dr Robert Bradburne, the Environment Agency's Chief Scientist and Head of the Science Profession. The Chief Scientist's Group:

- Leads on science, research, monitoring, analysis and evaluation, including the development of novel technologies
- Works collaboratively with the rest of the business to co-design and co-deliver science to meet existing and future evidence needs
- Identifies gaps and emerging trends, sources the evidence, and translates and communicates it in a compelling way to provide confidence in the decisions that we take
- Leads on work to address future challenges, engaging Research Councils, academia and the network of science advisors across Government.

Further information on Chief Scientist's Group and our role within the Environment Agency is available to read here [Creating a better place](#)





Robert Bradburne

Director, Chief Scientist Group

Dr Robert Bradburne is the Environment Agency's Chief Scientist. He leads a talented team in the Chief Scientist's Group working on science, innovative ways of monitoring the environment, analysing data and reporting on the state of the environment. He also provides scientific advice to SAGE during major incidents.

Rob is a plant scientist by training, starting his career with a PhD and post-doctoral research in crop genetics and ecology.

He joined the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2002, where he held a number of science and policy posts for twenty years working for the Department, culminating in becoming the Department's Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser.

The Role

The scale of the challenges facing the environment make this an exciting time to use your scientific skills to protect the environment now and in the future. We need to help build resilience in the water environment to climate and environmental change and better understand how the Environment Agency and those we regulate need to adapt.

As pressures on the water environment grow, and the country heads towards Net Zero, our environment will change and we are at the forefront of thinking about what is needed to manage this change.

This role is a permanent position at staff grade 5 within the Climate Change and Resource Efficiency team working on vital science and research.

You will be familiar with water resources and climate data including the UK climate projections. You will liaise with providers of water resources and climate research and data and will advise colleagues from across Research and the wider Environment Agency on its appropriate use.

Whether you have acquired your knowledge in hydrology, groundwater, climate change, hydroecology, water resource planning or demand, you will use your knowledge of water resources to understand impacts on the environment and translate insights in a helpful way for decision makers.

You will take responsibility and lead on aspects of water resources research, supporting and gaining experience from our existing research scientists. You will have opportunity to both undertake research and manage projects. Effective communication and the ability to build great working relationships will be crucial.

As part of a high performing, collaborative team, you'll be involved in applying your scientific knowledge, working closely across internal departments, the wider Defra group, statutory bodies, external consultants, businesses and communities, leaving a valuable legacy for the future. Take this challenge on, and your opportunities to be a part of an inclusive and creative organisation, putting people and wildlife at the heart of what we do, will be a life enhancing experience.

The Team

The Climate Change and Resource Efficiency team is part of the wider Research Team in the Environment Agency Chief Scientist's Group.

The Chief Scientist's Group leads on science and research for the Environment Agency, and provides the evidence and analysis to underpin our regulation and advice

Our Research Teams deliver research that is needed across a wide range of scientific disciplines to support our business and to deliver on behalf of the Environment Agency, Defra and wider government.

The Climate Change and Resource Efficiency team is a 10 strong team with leading expertise in water resources, climate impacts and adaptation, and the management of waste.

With strong links to academia and Central Government Departments, we commission and use scientific research to improve the way the Environment Agency tackles current and future challenges.

We are a nationally dispersed team. We use smart tools to stay connected and reduce travel.

Stuart Allen

Principal Scientist, Chief Scientist Group

I lead on water issues for the Climate Change and Resource Efficiency team.

My work has furthered our understanding of the impact of climate change on water resources, flooding and water quality and how we should plan and adapt for that change. It has helped shape policy and guidance both for our own staff and those we regulate.

I find my work both intellectually challenging and personally rewarding.





Ian Martin

Principal Chemical Risk Scientist

I began my career in contaminated land assessment and management, developing tools and understanding to implement legislation that protects people and the environment from chemical pollution tied to our industrial heritage.

Over time, my work has expanded to address new scientific challenges, including emerging pollutants like PFAS and the risks of antimicrobial resistance. This shift has moved my focus from tackling historical contamination to preventing future pollution through waste management and circular economy approaches.

A career in Research offers the opportunity to apply your scientific skills to today's challenges while anticipating future developments in regulation. This role opens doors to specialisation, exploring diverse topics, and advancing into policy or management within a large organisation. The path is yours to choose.



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Come and Join us!