

# Our approach to the environment

**East West Rail will be a new, environmentally sustainable way to travel across the region. We know how important it is that the railway is constructed, operated and maintained in an environmentally responsible way that minimises negative environmental impacts and in fact realises opportunities for improvement.**

We aim to become a net-zero carbon railway while making sure biodiversity is left in a better state than we found it. We are looking at ways to advance low carbon design and green energy to power our trains.

We commit to protecting our environment through the prevention of pollution, not just by meeting all our compliance obligations, but continuously improving our environmental performance.

We're listening to and working closely with local community groups, environmental bodies and local highway and planning authorities.

To help us achieve our aims we've developed nine environmental principles to guide us. Our staff, partners and supply chain have embraced this approach to make sure caring for the environment is at the centre of everything we do.



River Great Ouse,  
Bedford

**Environmental principles:**



**Respecting important sites and locations:** building and operating so we don't damage the important environmental and heritage sites in your local area.



**Caring for your landscapes:** enhancing the quality of landscapes and townscapes and considering how what we build can be designed to blend in with your local environment.



**Sourcing responsibly:** sustainably sourcing what we need and reducing our waste to get the maximum use out of everything we buy.



**Protecting species:** Protecting species: delivering biodiversity net gain by approaching development so biodiversity is left in a better state than we found it.



**Preserving your heritage:** protecting our historic environment through preserving and enhancing your heritage assets.



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**Respecting our neighbours:** effectively managing and controlling noise vibration and pollution to avoid affecting your health or quality of life.



**Contributing to the fight against climate change:** designing, constructing and operating in a way that helps us to be a net zero carbon railway which will mean our greenhouse gas emissions are balanced by removal of an equal amount of those gases from the atmosphere.



**Protecting your farmland:** protecting soil resources and agriculturally important land.

To read our full environmental policy, please visit [www.eastwestrail.co.uk/sustainability](http://www.eastwestrail.co.uk/sustainability).