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Nature-based solutions that could transform the water sector

Natural systems thinking has the power to 'evolutionise' the water industry. Here are our experts' nine key areas to focus on.

Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)

Implement SuDS such as wetlands, swales, trees, permeable pavements, soakaways, rain gardens, filter strips.

Ask about: [Sponge cities](#)

River restoration and remediation

Give space back to water via unculverting, re-meandering, protecting floodplain storage, wetland/pond creation.

Ask about: [Re-naturalising river beds](#)

Water neutrality

Meet increasing focus and regulatory obligation to measure efficiency, reuse and offsetting.

Ask about: [Water footprint](#)

Natural flood management

Use natural processes to control flood waters to 'slow the flow' and reduce the likelihood of catastrophic flooding.

Ask about: [Flood risk assessments](#)

Nutrient neutrality

Control nutrients via integrated catchment management and nature-first water storage or treatment.

Ask about: [Integrated catchment](#)

Marine design

Use natural flood protection, wave dampening and storm water runoff reduction to limit erosion and habitat loss.

Ask about: [Coastal water infrastructure](#)

Complementary solutions:

7. BNG credits

Set biodiversity commitments and actions to protect and restore river-connected habitats.

Ask about: [BNG planning](#)

8. Land management

Monitor, report and verify land management to transform future water design.

Ask about: [Land assessment](#)

9. Carbon sequestration

Capture and store atmospheric carbon dioxide to offset residual emissions.

Ask about: [Decarbonising waterways](#)