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ourcommunities

Topic Report

bitesize



Environmental sustainability: Dorset Environment

This bulletin is part of a series which makes up the 2018/19 local economic assessment of Dorset.

The contribution of Dorset's natural environment to the economy is often overlooked. Dorset's rich environment has been recognised both as a world heritage site and an area of outstanding beauty, and draws people both as visitors and also to live and work.

Whilst we want to maximise the economic opportunity that such an asset presents, we also need to make sure that we look after it for future generations. This bulletin looks at the value of the environment to the economy, what we are doing to protect it, and the opportunities and threats our environment faces in coming years.

Big Numbers

Public health spending on the landscape can be more effective than clinical interventions by **27x**

2.1m staying visitors in Dorset

1,129km²
is the size of the Dorset AONB

The number of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) licensed in Dorset **798**

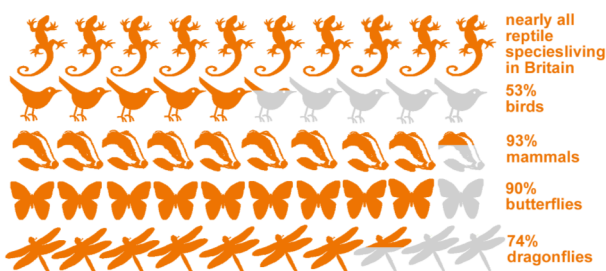
36% of the workforce are aged 50+

0.3% of cars in Dorset are ULEVs. Around 2% of new cars sold are ULEVs

Box 1: Economic importance

- DCC Dorset's environmental economy is worth between £0.9bn and £2.5bn per annum, about 8-10% of the overall economy. It also supports between 17,000 and 61,000 jobs in the economy¹.
- Our stunning natural environment adds to our quality of life and wellbeing. Greater wellbeing contributes to higher productivity and economic gain. Studies have shown there is a positive link between happy workers and profitability³. There has been a debate among economists about whether we should use measures of wellbeing like household income and consumption, rather than the more traditional measure of growth in production (GDP) to measure progress⁴. Investment in the environment may be better captured by such measures.
- Our coastal and rural location with its historical and cultural significance is also a draw for many visitors who benefit from our environment and contribute to our economy.
- The landscape can benefit the economy by reducing the need for expensive public health interventions. Local public health spending on the landscape can be 27 times more cost effective than clinical interventions².

Dorset is home to...



Sources:

- 1 'Dorset's Environmental Economy', Ash Futures for Dorset County Council, Dorset AONB, Jurassic Coast WHS, Dorset LNP, 2015
- 2 Public Health and Landscape, Creating healthy places, Landscape Institute, November 2013
- 3 Employee satisfaction and corporate performance in the UK, University of East Anglia, 28 February 2018
- 4 <https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2017/07/06/beyond-gdp-measuring-the-economic-well-being-of-individuals/> [Accessed 14/12/18]

Box 2: Sustainability

- Protection and enhancement of the natural environment & biodiversity is undertaken by the local authority, for example, by providing advice and guidance prior to developing an area.
- The government's 25 Year Environment Plan⁵ includes proposals such as: weekly collections for food waste, consistent recycling across council areas, electronic tagging of waste, better labelling to improve recycling rates, and, prevention of garden waste going to landfill, to name a few. Dorset is ahead of the game as we already have weekly food waste collections, and garden waste is composted⁶. Nevertheless, the trend is towards reducing waste, increasing recycling rates and making better use of resources.
- Whilst CO² emissions in Dorset are falling, in line with the government's targets for 2020⁷, further reductions are required to meet tougher emission targets for 2050⁸. Renewable energy consumption is increasing and the UK's renewable capacity now exceeds that of fossil fuels⁹. The UK is reducing emissions faster than any other G7 country¹⁰.
- The government estimates that the low carbon economy could grow by 11% per year between 2015 and 2030 - four times faster than the rest of the economy. Uptake of electric vehicles needs to increase and with it the roll-out of a nation-wide charging infrastructure. Dorset's rural nature makes hybrid vehicles a more realistic ownership option for people than pure EVs, and sales of these vehicles grew by 22% in the last year, compared to a 6.9% fall in overall car sales¹¹. Ultra-low EVs now number 798 in Dorset¹², out of a total of 218,000 cars registered in Dorset¹³.

Renewable energy
% of consumption
2016



Electric vehicles represent a tiny
proportion of all cars in Dorset



Our plans include

- Ensure economic growth benefits everyone.
- Place the environment at the heart of growth.
- Develop the agritech and aquaculture sectors along with others, through skills, inward investment and support structure.
- Develop the sustainable tourism offer based on Dorset's natural and man-made assets.

Sources:

- 5 Our waste, our resources: A strategy for England, Defra, 18 December 2018
- 6 The Clean Growth Strategy, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 12/10/2017
- 7 UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005-2014, Department of Energy & Climate Change
- 8 The Carbon Plan: Delivering our low carbon future, Department of Energy & Climate Change, 2011.
- 9 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/06/uk-renewable-energy-capacity-surpasses-fossil-fuels-for-first-time> [Accessed 20/12/18]
- 10 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42495883> [Accessed 20/12/18]
- 11 <https://www.smmr.co.uk/vehicle-data/evs-and-afvs-registrations/> [Accessed 19/12/18]
- 12 Ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs) licensed at the end of quarter by upper and lower tier local authority, Department for Transport, Q2 2018
- 13 Licensed vehicles at the end of the year by body type and upper and lower tier local authority, Department for Transport, 2017