**Protection of Environment in the UK**

Protection of environment is a major issue in Great Britain. Global warming, ozone layer problem, air and water pollution, industrial wastes are in the centre of different state and public actions. Great Britain maintains careful checks on use of dangerous chemicals and collects information about new ones. Acid rains that kill enormous amounts of fish in Great Britain are also in the centre of attention. They are caused by smoke from factories and power stations and exhaust fumes from transport. It is produced when coal and oil are burnt. The government provides smoke control programmes. New power plants will have to meet very tight limits on emission of chemical gases. Britain works with Scandinavian countries in a project on the problem of acid rains. Over the last years local authorities are carrying on tests of drinking water in England and Wales. Nuclear waste from nuclear plants is discharged into the Irish Sea, making it one of the most radioactive seas in the world. There also have been numerous leaks of radioactive matter to the atmosphere. Water pollution from shipping and oil platforms, mostly in the North Atlantic, is great.

Water pollution programmes are being worked out in Great Britain nowadays. Ten National parks have been established in England and Wales, four — in Scotland. Their aims are to conserve the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. Each park is administered by an independent National Park Authority. Trees Preservation Orders enable local authorities to protect trees and woodlands. Once a tree is protected it is, in general, an offence to cut it down without permission. Responsibility for pollution control is divided between local authorities and central government. Local authorities are responsible for collection and disposal of wastes, keeping the streets clear of litter, control of air pollution. It is a criminal offence to leave litter in any public place in the open air except in designated places. The fines for it vary from 25 up to 2500 pounds.

**The Problem of Environmental Protection in Great Britain**

Environmental protection is an international issue of great importance and [Great Britain](http://www.learnenglishbest.com/topic-great-britain-velikobritaniya.html) pays much attention to it. There are nearly 500 000 protected buildings and 7000 conservation areas of architecture of historical interest in Britain. The Government supports the work of the voluntary sector in preserving the national heritage.

Total emissions of smoke in the air have fallen by 85 per cent since 1960. Most petrol stations in Britain stock unleaded petrol. The Government is committed to the control of gases emission, which damage the ozone layer.

They also contribute to the greenhouse effect, which leads to global warming and a rise in sea levels. Britain stresses the need for studying the science of climate change.

Green belts are areas where land should be left open and free from urban sprawl. The Government attaches great importance to their protection. National parks cover 9 per cent of the total land area of [England](http://www.learnenglishbest.com/topic-england-angliya.html) and Wales. The National Rivers Authority protects island waters in England and Wales.

In Scotland the River purification authorities are responsible for water pollution control. Great Britain takes care of it's environment for themselves and next generations.

**[ перевод ]**

**Проблема защиты окружающей среды в Великобритании**

Защита окружающей среды - международное дело огромной важности, и Великобритания уделяет этому большое внимание. В Британии около 500 000 зданий, которые охраняются государством, и 7000 закрытых зон, представляющих архитектурный и исторический интерес. Правительство поощряет работу добровольцев по сохранению национального наследия.

С 1960 года общий выброс дыма в атмосферу снизился на 85%. Большинство бензоколонок в Великобритании продает бензин без примеси свинца. Правительство контролирует выброс газов, которые разрушают озоновый слой.

Они также способствуют парниковому эффекту, что ведет к глобальному потеплению и поднятию уровня моря. Британия подчеркивает необходимость изучения науки об изменениях климата.

Зеленые пояса - это области, где земля должна оставаться свободной от городских застроек. Государство придает большое значение их защите. Национальные парки составляют 9% общей площади Англии и Уэльса.

В Шотландии общество по очистке рек контролирует загрязнение воды. В Великобритании заботятся об окружающей среде ради самих себя и будущих поколений.

**Вопросы:**1. What are green belts?  
2. What is an international issue of great importance?  
3. What is the total emission of smoke in the air?  
4. Is it easy to buy unleaded petrol in Britain?  
5. Who is responsible for water pollution control in Scotland?