

The value of your Internal Drainage Board

What is an Internal Drainage Board?

An Internal Drainage Board, or IDB, is the local public authority managing the drainage and water levels within your area (internal drainage district).

What does an IDB do?

Each IDB has permissive powers to undertake work on behalf of their local community to carefully manage water levels and reduce the risk from flooding within its drainage district. Much of this vital work involves the maintenance of rivers and the related infrastructure. IDBs also advise on planning applications and facilitate the drainage of new developments to help reduce future flood risks.

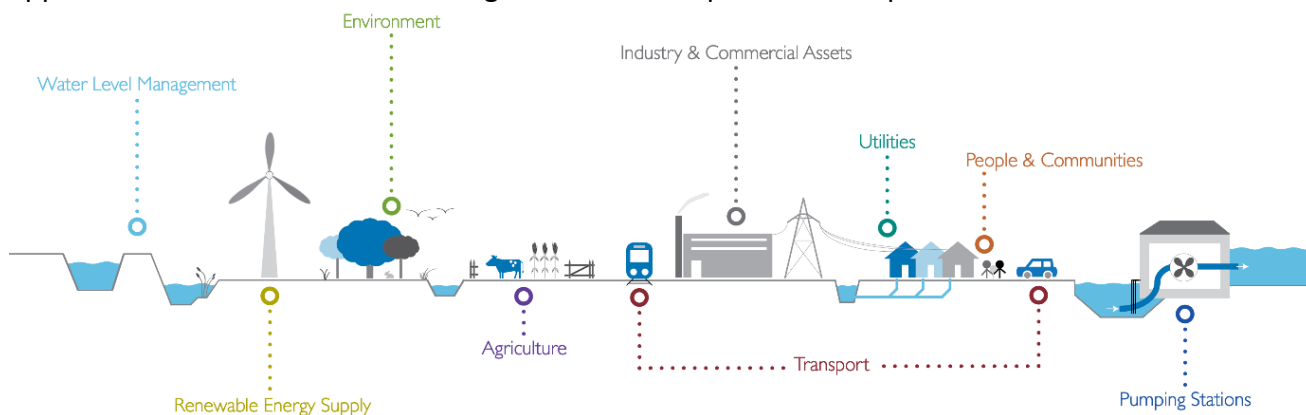


Figure 1: Key sectors facilitated by the management of water levels by IDBs

Did you know.....?

- There are approximately **50,000 farms** or landholdings within IDB districts in England. Water level management by IDBs is an essential component to continuing the food security of the UK.
- Some **600,000 people** live or work within IDB boundaries, in **879,000 properties** (domestic and commercial). IDBs play a key role in directly reducing flood risk to these communities.
- **129 miles of motorway** and **910 miles of railway** run through IDB districts. Loss of these transport routes would affect millions of commuters every year.
- Every IDB has its own Biodiversity Action Plan and has a duty to further the conservation and enhancement of environmental sites, including **398 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)**.
- IDB districts contain several significant industrial and commercial assets, including the UK's largest cargo port. The Port of Grimsby & Immingham imports **20 million tonnes of oil** and **10 million tonnes of coal** per annum.
- **30 onshore windfarms** and **6 planned bio-energy power stations** are located within IDB districts.
- **56 major power stations** are located within IDB districts, relying on effective water level and quality management.
- IDBs **invested £61.3 million during 2015-16** in their water level management work including:
 - Maintenance of watercourses - £19.8million
 - Pumping stations, sluices & water level control structures - £8.5million
 - New works & improvement works - £8.8million
 - Contributions to the Environment Agency, including main river maintenance - £7.7million
 - Environmental works and activities - £0.9million

How is this work funded?

The expenditure for the essential work of IDBs is met via drainage rates from agricultural land occupiers, special levies paid by district/unitary authorities on behalf of non-agricultural land occupiers within the district and a higher land water contribution from the Environment Agency. IDBs can also seek funding for capital works through Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid from Treasury and voluntary funds.

Your contribution plays a crucial part of providing the service. Further information about the important work of IDBs can be found at ADA's website www.ada.org.uk