# Lib Dem Leader Ed Davey Falls off Paddleboard to Protest Water Pollution in England



Liberal Democrat leader Ed Davey recently used an unconventional approach to draw attention to the issue of water pollution in England. During a campaign event on May 28, 2024, at Lake Windermere in the Lake District, Davey deliberately fell off a paddleboard to highlight the sewage contamination crisis. This stunt is part of the Liberal Democrats' broader environmental campaign, which includes proposals to abolish the water services regulator Ofwat, establish a new regulator, and ban bonuses for water company CEOs.

Davey's actions come amid increasing public concern over water pollution in England. Recent data has shown that 83% of English rivers contain high levels of pollution due to sewage and agricultural waste. The year 2023 saw record levels of storm water pollution, particularly affecting rivers in northern England. The Liberal Democrats propose giving local environmental experts seats on water company boards to ensure accountability and transparency.

Davey's campaign highlights ongoing issues with major water companies like United Utilities, which is accused of illegally pumping millions of liters of raw sewage into Lake Windermere. The party aims to enforce stricter penalties and reforms to protect public health, the environment, and local tourism economies.