

Environmental Policy

Wiltshire Council is a unitary authority located in the South West of England and is responsible for many activities which have an environmental impact on the land, water, air, wildlife and residents of the county. The authority is responsible for a wide range of activities including spatial planning, waste management, highways, social care and policies on mineral extraction. In addition, Wiltshire Council is a landowner and a major purchaser of local goods and services.

The council seeks to mitigate the environmental impacts associated with its services, ensuring that, as a minimum, it conforms to all applicable laws, regulations, codes of practice and corporate standards.

The authority is also committed to reducing its carbon footprint, preparing residents for the unavoidable consequences of climate change, pollution prevention and demonstrating continuous improvement. To achieve this, it will focus on the key environmental objectives outlined below.

- **Waste** – Promote and implement sustainable management practices for waste generated by residents and by the council.
- **Transport** – Reduce the impact of fleet and staff travel on the environment by developing and promoting a range of sustainable transport options and flexible working practices.
- **Water** – Ensure that effective monitoring regimes and sustainable practices are put in place to manage water usage across all council sites whilst simultaneously striving to reduce consumption.
- **Purchasing and procurement** - Ensure that the principles of sustainable development are integrated into the purchasing and procurement of goods and services.
- **Biodiversity and natural environment** – Work with key stakeholders on countryside, ecological and environmental issues to support biodiversity and the natural environment.
- **Energy** – Work to reduce the energy consumption and carbon emissions associated with council services and to expand renewable energy capacity in Wiltshire.
- **Spatial and transport planning** – Ensure that the planning system helps deliver a reduction in average carbon emissions per resident, whilst establishing communities that are resilient to the future impacts of climate change.
- **Communicating environmental issues** – Raise awareness of environmental issues amongst staff, elected members and the public through the provision of information and training.

Performance against these will be monitored through internal audit, corporate and service delivery plans, national indicator datasets and the use of resources assessment.

In order to achieve these environmental objectives, the council will operate an externally audited environmental management system that will:

- Set targets and objectives in order to minimise potentially negative environmental effects, whilst increasing the positive effects of the council's activities.
- Produce a statement of the council's environmental performance at regular intervals, but at least annually.

Signed  (Cllr Sturgis)
Cabinet Member for Waste, Property & Environment

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