

Sustainable Leicester

Leicester City Council's Environmental Policy

Scope of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to set out our goals for protecting and improving the environment. It covers all of our activities and estate, including our 'landlord' responsibilities for the schools estate.

All Council staff must apply the policy where it relates to their role in the authority's corporate activities. We will encourage and support schools to adopt their own policies.

We will also ensure, through the procurement process, that suppliers and outsourced service providers apply it to services or goods supplied to us.



Under the leadership of the City Mayor, Sir Peter Soulsby, the Council is committed to making Leicester:

- A great place to live with a high quality environment
- A place where business growth is propelled by a thriving low carbon economy
- A city which runs efficiently – achieving more with less
- A city whose environmental impacts and risks are understood and addressed
- A place with ambition - attracting people and businesses

Our Environmental Policy supports this goal, and will guide the development and delivery of a programme of action across the six themes above.

Environmental Policy

In addition to fulfilling our statutory environmental responsibilities and complying with all legal and other requirements, including any voluntary commitments, we will use our powers and influence to further protect and improve the environment - making continual improvement in our performance.

We will:

- Lead a city-wide programme to make Leicester a low carbon city and reduce our own emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Anticipate the effects of climate change and adapt our services and infrastructure to protect the City.
- Prevent or minimise pollution to air, water and land (including noise pollution, litter, fly tipping and the impact of car travel).
- Protect and, where possible, enhance the quality, extent and accessibility of Leicester's open space, trees and natural environment for people and wildlife.
- Contribute to the creation of a sustainable built environment through the planning process and our own development projects.
- Minimise energy and water demand across our estate and reduce the fuel we use.
- Encourage and adopt the appropriate generation and use of renewable and low carbon energy.
- Minimise waste and the impact of its disposal by applying the 'waste hierarchy': reducing, reusing, recycling or composting and energy recovery before landfill of what remains.
- Use products and materials such as paper efficiently and specify goods that, wherever possible, have a minimal environmental impact in the extraction or sourcing of materials, manufacture, transport, use and disposal.

Implementing the Policy

Environmental Management

At Leicester City Council we recognise that we can affect the environment through: the services we provide and how we deliver them, our policies, our enforcement of laws and regulations, the choices we make when buying goods or commissioning services – as well as our role as a community leader.

We will manage the significant environmental aspects of our activities to implement this Policy through a single Council-wide system based on the international standard ISO14001: 2015. We will use the system to monitor implementation of this Policy - taking steps to understand and control any risks of harm to the environment resulting from our activities, and to respond to opportunities for environmental improvement.

Communication, Participation and Dialogue

We recognise the importance of effective communication in delivering this policy, as well as the potential of participation and dialogue to enhance progress.

We will communicate this policy within the Council and to our external stakeholders, enabling our staff and others to fulfill their role in delivering it by providing information, training and other support.

We will also encourage dialogue within the Council and with our stakeholders to foster debate, learning and greater environmental improvement. This will include the public, businesses, education and community organisations, and regulators.

Through our procurement processes, we will seek to ensure that goods and services we buy meet our environmental requirements and we will work with our contractors and suppliers to help them improve their environmental performance.

We will encourage the public, schools and partners to take action too, through environmental information, advice and services.

Accountability

This Policy has been approved by the Executive and will be reviewed annually.

Its delivery is the overall responsibility of the City Mayor, and is led by the Assistant City Mayor for Energy and Sustainability. The Council will publicise its environmental performance each year to enable the people of Leicester to hold us to account.

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Further copies of this Policy and information about its delivery are available from The Environment Team. Telephone: 0116 454 2110. E-mail: environment@leicester.gov.uk