

## **Environmental Policy**

Stratford on Avon District Council recognises and is committed to minimising the environmental impact of its activities and services. It further recognises that there is a need to establish a proper balance between the short-term economic and longer-term environmental well-being of our community. Best practice and technology will be considered.

Stratford on Avon District Council will improve the environment by ensuring that:

- Adverse impacts are managed, minimised or eliminated
- Activities continue to comply with environmental legislation and regulations
- Continual progress is made towards achieving improved environmental performance
- This policy is widely communicated to all staff, elected Members and contractors

Stratford on Avon District Council will fulfil its commitments by:

- Carrying out periodic reviews of Council policies and actions and seek continual improvement through the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme.
- Providing environmental training for Members both as part of their induction and each year thereafter.
- Provide environmental training for all Staff.
- Consulting staff on, and encourage participation in, new environmental activities
- Working in partnership and consultation with the people and the business community of the District through the Local Agenda 21 to raise awareness of and participation in, environmental improvement activities.
- Seeking to reduce, reuse or recycle wastes while ensuring the safe storage, handling, transportation and disposal of all wastes arising from the Authority's activities, to educate the public and business on waste management practice, minimise the production of waste and maximise the recycling of waste produced by households in the District.
- Minimising the release of any pollutant that may cause environmental damage to air, water or land including noise pollution and damage to our built heritage. This will be achieved by controlling the Council's own activities and by using education and legal enforcement powers to influence activities in the District.
- Reducing energy and water usage in Council buildings and reduce fuel used by vehicles engaged in Council.

- Promoting the development and implementation of renewable energy sources.
- Specifying and purchasing goods and materials produced locally which can be manufactured, used and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way within financial and other constraints.
- Encouraging sustainable patterns of development in our decision making.
- Promoting energy efficient and low emission means of transport
- Protecting and enhancing the open spaces, waters, trees and hedges within the Council's remit having regard to biodiversity and habitat conservation.
- Working with our contractors and suppliers to help them improve their environment performance in order to maintain standards as high as that of Stratford District Council.
- Ensuring, in conjunction with the County Council's Emergency Planning Team, that appropriate contingency procedures are in place in the event of environmental accidents or emergencies.
- Taking in to account environmental impacts of our actions which may occur beyond the boundaries of the District and encourage others to do the same.

The policy provides the means to set and revise objectives and targets for environmental performance and is subject to review at least every three years.