

POLICY:	ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT
Policy number:	EPS/ 23 / v.2
Available to:	All Staff, Councillors, Contractors, & the Public
Supersedes Version:	Environmental Policy adopted 16.06.20
Approved by:	Full Council
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Review due:	October 2024

1. Description

An environmental policy outlines the Council's commitment to reduce its impact on the environment and provides a framework for setting objectives and targets to improve our environmental performance.

2. Purpose of this policy

Ludlow Town Council recognises that the day-to-day operations can impact both directly and indirectly on the environment. We aim to protect and improve the environment through good management and by adopting best practice wherever possible. We will work to integrate environmental considerations into our business decisions and adopt greener alternatives wherever possible, throughout our operations.

3. Scope

In order to discharge its responsibilities, the Council will endeavour to:

- bring this Environmental Policy Statement to the attention of all stakeholders.
- carry out regular audits of the environmental management system.
- comply fully with all relevant legal requirement, codes of practice and regulations at International, National and Local levels.
- eliminate risks to the environment, where possible, through selection and design of materials, buildings, facilities, equipment and processes.
- ensure that emergency procedures are in place at all locations for dealing with environmental issues.
- establish targets to measure the continuous improvement in our environmental performance.
- identify and manage environmental risks and hazards.
- improve the environmental efficiency of our transport and travel.
- involve customers, partners, clients, suppliers and subcontractors in the implementation of our objectives.

- minimise waste and increase recycling within the framework of our waste management procedures.
- only engage contractors who are able to demonstrate due regard to environmental matters.
- prevent pollution to land, air and water.
- promote environmentally responsible purchasing.
- provide adequate resources to control environmental risks arising from our work activities.
- provide suitable training to enable employees to deal with their specific areas of environmental control.
- reduce the use of water, energy and any other natural resources.
- source material from sustainable supply, when practicable.

This Environmental Policy will be reviewed at least annually and revised as necessary to reflect changes to the business activities and any changes to legislation. Any changes to the Policy will be brought to the attention of all stakeholders.

4. Procedure

The Council is committed to improvement of the environment and enhancement of biodiversity.

Including:

- Supporting initiatives aimed at increasing the environmental awareness of both residents and visitors.
- Protecting and enhancing the quality of Council open spaces and managing our green spaces to promote and protect biodiversity and natural habitats as far as practicable.
- Reducing the use of any pesticides or herbicides on council land as far as practicable.
- Actively considering and commenting on the use of sustainable materials in planning applications for renovation or new builds.
- Examining all applications to fell trees and where practicable asking the planning authority to consider other actions that might save the tree.
- Requesting a replanting condition for all felled trees to mitigate the loss.

The Council is committed to responsible energy use and will promote energy efficiency throughout its operations.

Including:

- Switching off equipment and lights when not in use.
- Closing windows and external doors when heating is on.
- Minimising vehicle miles driven on Council business and promote the use public transport wherever practicable.
- Installing infrastructure to enable efficient use of water resources where practicable.
- Providing facilities for the recycling of wastepaper, cardboard glass and plastics and composting throughout operations.

- Utilising electronic communications wherever possible.
- Providing equipment that ends avoidable 'single use' plastics.

The Council is committed to Sustainable Procurement

Including:

- Seeking to minimise environmental damage caused through the transportation of goods by sourcing materials and services locally where practicable.
- Sourcing event catering and council procured tea/coffee in offices from local organic, fair trade or other recognised certification schemes where practicable.
- Ensuring any timber or similar products used by the council is from FSC [Forest Stewardship Council] certified sources.
- Promoting 'Shop Local' initiatives whenever possible.

The Council is committed to Sustainable Travel

Including:

- Procuring electric vehicles and full replacement of diesel vehicles as soon as is practicable.
- Supporting the increase of the number of EV charging points in the town.
- Promoting and supporting active travel including the use of public footpaths, cycling, and public transport including Ludlow Park and Ride.

5. Legal

The Environment Act 2021

6. Other relevant policies

Winter Policy
Vehicle Policy
Tree Policy
Town Centre Strategy
Health & Safety Policy
Training Policy