

Environmental Policy Statement

West Suffolk Council is a member of the [Suffolk Climate Change Partnership](#) and has declared a climate and biodiversity emergency, adopting a goal of becoming a net zero carbon organisation by 2039. In line with the council's [new strategic priorities](#), the council will work with residents, communities and businesses and use campaigns to support behaviour change. We aim to reduce our impact on the environment through:

Providing a framework for setting, monitoring, and reviewing environmental objectives and targets annually to ensure continual improvement.

Publishing an [annual environmental statement](#) to demonstrate progress against key areas of our operations including overall carbon emissions.

Actively reducing natural resource use such as water or products derived from natural resources like paper.

Reducing energy demand by adhering to the energy hierarchy, a recognised framework to guide sustainable energy policy and decision-making.

Reduce energy consumption

Energy efficient systems

Use renewable energy

Employ carbon capture

Minimal conventional energy

Aiming to eliminate fossil fuel use by improving organisational efficiency and using renewable technologies including solar, wind and hydrogen.

Supporting initiatives that reduce the carbon emissions from transport, by lowering both staff and fleet mileage and ensuring transport for our own services is as clean and efficient as possible by using electric vehicles and alternative fuels as well as promoting cycling and walking.

Protecting habitats and promoting biodiversity, as well as reducing chemical use and trial sustainable alternatives.

Upholding the waste hierarchy, a recognised framework aimed at preventing and reducing waste, by promoting waste reduction and streetscene improvements, both by staff and within local communities.

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

Recovery

Disposal

Seek to maximise funding opportunities to help maintain progress on the council's net zero carbon emissions by 2039 goal.

Enhancing built and natural environments by balancing their needs using a holistic approach. Promote and support schemes to decarbonise existing homes and ensure the highest possible standards in new-build properties.

Upholding our responsibilities in terms of enforcement to conserve and actively protect clean air, land, and water, and investigate instances of environmental crime, for example fly-tipping.

Making the most effective use of our drainage infrastructure and avoid increased flood risk, as well as reducing pollution and looking at opportunities to improve the quality of our water and reduce consumption.

Influencing suppliers by committing to purchase sustainable products and services where available, placing emphasis on the lifetime impacts of products and services both commercially and environmentally.

Using our ability to influence others and encourage all partners to operate in the most sustainable way they can.

West Suffolk Council is committed to managing the effects that our activities have on the natural environment. In addition to our own commitments, we recognise the importance of working in partnership to achieve change.

West Suffolk Council will work with partner organisations to reduce Suffolk's environmental impacts. To do this, we will:

- work in partnership with local and national organisations to achieve our goals of restoration, biodiversity net gain and ecosystem services through the West Suffolk Green Infrastructure Strategy

- work alongside county colleagues and partners to deliver the actions within the [Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan](#).

- work with colleagues through the Suffolk Waste Partnership to ensure the changes required through the Government's policy on simpler recycling work for the benefit of both Suffolk residents and the environment.

The challenge of creating a sustainable future is complex, but the council will strive to achieve the ambitions contained in this statement. The council has recognised for many years that a sustainable approach to activities brings economic, environmental, and social benefits.

Taking responsibility

This statement will be made available to all staff, residents, and other relevant interested parties. It will be reviewed in line with the council's environment action plan.

Influencing others

The council works closely with our partners in delivering local services and is committed to leading by example and will encourage key partners and other strategic suppliers to demonstrate comparable environmental commitments.

Cllr Cliff Waterman,
Leader of West Suffolk Council

Ian Gallin,
Chief Executive

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progress

West Suffolk
Council