



Corporate Environmental Policy 2015-2017

This Policy will be reviewed biennially

North Kesteven District Council recognises that it has responsibilities to the environment within, and beyond legal and regulatory requirements. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and continually improving our environmental performance as an integral part of council strategies and service delivery, with regular review points. We encourage residents, suppliers and stakeholders to do the same.

Policies

Energy and Water

- We monitor energy and water consumption and seek to reduce the amount used
- Lights and electrical equipment are switched off when not in use
- Heating is adjusted and switched off with energy use and requirements in mind
- The energy consumption and efficiency of major products is taken into account when purchasing

Waste and Recycling

- We reduce, reuse and recycle packaging and unwanted items whenever possible
- We minimise use of paper in the office
- We buy recycled and recyclable products when it is feasible to do so
- We only use licenced and appropriate organisations to dispose of and recycle unwanted items

Office Supplies

- We favour more environmentally friendly and efficient products whenever possible
- We aim to eliminate the need for large quantities of office supplies
- We evaluate if renting/sharing is an option before purchasing equipment
- We evaluate the environmental impact of any major products we intend to purchase

Transportation and Fuel

- We monitor, reduce and minimise the miles travelled to deliver our services
- We use video/phone conferencing, email and electronic alternatives to car use, restricting trips based on need
- We support and make additional efforts to accommodate the use of public transport and bicycles

Maintenance and Cleaning

- We ensure high levels of maintenance. Systems are regularly serviced and issues/faults are repaired as soon as possible
- We investigate the options to use the most environmentally friendly materials in office refurbishments
- We will investigate the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products

Culture

- We communicate this policy to staff, for greater commitment and improved performance
- We offer to work with suppliers, contractors and sub-contractors to improve their environmental performance
- We use local labour and materials where available to reduce carbon emissions and support the community in line with Procurement rules

Monitoring and Improvement

- We comply with and/or exceed all relevant regulatory requirements
- We continually improve and monitor environmental performance, reducing greenhouse gas emissions year on year
- We continually improve and reduce our environmental impacts
- We incorporate environmental factors into business decisions
- We keep employees aware of our activities, their responsibilities and options to contribute
- We will review this Policy every 2 years

Processes

To demonstrate our commitment to our environmental responsibilities;

A District Wide Carbon Management Plan is in place. The Executive Board approved the launch of the Low Carbon NK Charter and Plan, committing to a 40% reduction in district emissions by 2020 (in line with the national target). This is a partnership between the Council and local organisations. It promotes collective commitment, and publicises the contributions made to reducing district emissions. The Sustainability Team offer audits and support. Projects which can influence a reduction in the district's carbon footprint are listed and those which the Council can deliver itself are internally assigned to the most appropriate team for delivery.

The Executive Board have approved reducing NKDC's carbon footprint year on year towards a 40% reduction by 2020 (in line with the national target). Annual performance is included in the Low Carbon NK Plan, plus implemented and proposed projects that will reduce our carbon footprint are listed. Progress towards both the district and corporate targets are monitored via the Internal Sustainability Group and Corporate Management Team.

For more information

Website

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