

Environmental Policy

Dudley Council is committed to putting the principles of sustainable development into action in everything we do. To assist this process, we have produced a corporate environment policy which sets out our aims and commitments for protecting and improving the environment. The policy covers all of our activities and estate, including any services we deliver.

This policy was approved on **DATE** by **NAME, TITLE**

We are responsible for delivering many services which can have a direct impact on our environment, for example, staff business travel. In addition to these functions, we affect the environment as a large employer and landowner in Dudley.

We will use our leadership, influence and regulatory powers to enable the Council, residents, communities, local businesses and other organisations to work more sustainably and improve Dudley's natural and built environment.

In support of this commitment, we will embed the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and work towards:

- assessing the impact of our proposed **activities and policies** on the environment and act on the findings
- tackling the causes of and adapting to the effects of climate change, by becoming a carbon **net zero** ¹**council by 2030** through delivery of the Dudley Council Climate Action Plan, and by helping the borough to become carbon net zero by 2041.
- conserving, restoring and enhancing Dudley's **natural and built environment**, keeping and making it diverse, safe and pleasant to live in for the wellbeing of our residents and communities, and future generations.
- avoiding the unnecessary use of **materials, water and energy** in our buildings and operations, such as introducing paperless offices. We will monitor energy and water consumption across our estate to inform and implement energy and water efficiency measures.
- minimising and preventing **pollution** to air², land and water including noise pollution.
- minimising the production of **waste** by using fewer resources, reusing and repairing items, buying recycled and recyclable materials, and composting

¹ Net Zero as defined by the United Nations means cutting carbon emissions to a small amount of residual emissions that can be absorbed and durably stored by nature and other carbon dioxide removal measures, leaving zero in the atmosphere <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/net-zero-coalition>

² <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/business/environmental-health/pollution-control/air-quality/>

unavoidable food waste where possible. We will manage all municipal waste in compliance with our statutory obligations.

- giving consideration to **sustainable technologies** in all of our own activities and the appropriate generation and use of renewable and low carbon energy in our estate.
- looking to our suppliers and contractors to create positive value for our local communities by **including sustainability and social value** in our procurement policies and practices.
- endeavouring to **prevent environmental accidents** wherever possible and establish contingency procedures to minimise the effect of such accidents if they do happen.
- fostering a sense of responsibility for the environment among our employees and elected members at all levels and encourage greater **awareness of environmental issues** by raising awareness, educating and training.
- working with others at local, regional and national level, to **develop good environmental practices**.
- aiming for continuing **improvements in environmental performance**, meeting and where possible, exceeding minimum standards set by law.
- regularly **reviewing and updating our environmental policy** every three years.