



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Camborne Town Council recognises that a healthy environment is fundamental to the prosperity and wellbeing of our local community. The Council acknowledges that whilst our activities may have adverse effects on the environment, we can take steps to minimise those impacts.

1.2 The Council considers that the environment is important and will comply with and, where possible, exceed all environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice, as applicable.

1.3 The Council will make a positive contribution to the environment by protecting and enhancing its assets.

2. AIMS OF POLICY

- To promote the importance and value of a quality environment, and to support local people in their enjoyment of it
- To carry out our work in an efficient way that minimises or eliminates its adverse impact on our environment
- To promote the development of a Circular Economy
- To support community initiatives

3. PRINCIPLES

Our environmental policy is guided by the following principles:

1. **Sustainability:** Ensuring that natural resources are used responsibly to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
2. **Precautionary Principle:** Taking preventative measures to avoid environmental harm.
3. **Community Engagement:** Empowering residents and businesses to take part in environmental initiatives and decision-making processes.
4. **Continuous Improvement:** Regularly reviewing and updating policies, practices, and technologies to improve our environmental performance.

4. OBJECTIVES

To achieve these principles, the council will pursue the following objectives:

4.1 Carbon Reduction

Camborne Town Council declared a climate emergency in October 2021 and pledges to be fully carbon neutral in line with the ambitions of Cornwall Council.

A Carbon Audit is being undertaken, plans for immediate and long-term actions to reach this goal include:

- Implement the phased replacement of LED bulbs in Council premises where appropriate.
- Introduce phased replacement of electrical equipment used on Council premises with products of maximum energy efficiency rating.
- Switch to 100% renewable energy tariffs for electricity on Council premises.
- Phased replacement of non-renewable heating sources (gas fired systems) with renewables when funds are available
- Invest in electric car charging points.
- Undertaking a biennial audit of Council emissions.
- Identify energy efficiency measures in all buildings and vehicles and undertake retrofits as required.
- Encourage the switching off electrical equipment and unnecessary lights when not in use.
- Encourage the closing of windows and external doors when heating is on, with consideration for the health of staff.

4.2 Nature and Wildlife

Camborne Town Council is committed to increasing opportunities for nature to thrive on the assets it owns or manages and influencing others by:

- Conserving trees, hedgerows, ponds, streams and other habitats.
- Managing Council assets (including public rights of way, coastal areas, play areas, playing fields, and verges) in a manner that protects and increases biodiversity.
- Introducing wildlife-friendly planting and features.
- Supporting other landowners to protect and improve their assets.

4.3 Pesticide Use

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Camborne Town Council is committed to maintaining the already implemented reduction of the use of pesticides on assets we own or manage (except for use for the control of Schedule 9 plants under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, such as Japanese Knotweed, or where it is used to reduce material risks to asset integrity).

4.4 Sustainable Travel

- Promote and support modern working practices, such as remote working, amongst staff and councillors.
- Encourage members and officers to car-share, where possible, when a car journey must be made on Council business, use of electric fleet vehicles where possible.
- Encourage participants in Camborne Town Council activities, to where possible, use sustainable forms of travel.
- Promote and support the use of cycling, public footpaths and public transport
- Ensure all Council vehicles are serviced and maintained to a high standard
- The use of electric powered vehicles will be pursued where this is a workable alternative.

4.5 Water Management

- Where possible, installing and using water butts as a non-drinking water source.
- Supporting campaigns to educate staff and users so they are aware of which materials can be disposed of in wastewater.
- Promoting and supporting natural solutions to increase water catchment, reduce/reuse surface water run-off and prevent flooding.
- Installing water saving measures in public toilets where this is feasible.

4.6 Waste and Recycling

- Keep waste to a minimum by preventing, reusing, recycling or recovering waste.
- Ensure waste is sorted, stored and disposed of appropriately.
- Adopt plastic-free on council assets and encourage events taking place in the town to reduce single-use plastic, promote plastic free initiatives.
- Encourage the installation of and promote use of water fountains instead of purchasing disposable plastic water bottles.
- Recycle all recyclable waste generated at Council premises and events.
- Promote and encourage recycling amongst residents.
- Explore the use of recyclable, compostable and/or recycled products on

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Council premises.

- Reduce the production and use of non-recyclable resources such as laminated or plastic based publicity material.
- Minimise the amount of printing and the amount of wastepaper and promote use of sustainable use of 100% recycled paper, default mono and double sided ink unless required in another format.
- Observe our duty of care conscientiously within our waste contracts.
- Maximise use of electronic communications; councillors to use an opt-in scheme for printing paper documents.
- Recycle green waste by using composting facilities.
- Support campaigns to reduce fly tipping and pollution incidents.

4.7 Responsible and Sustainable Procurement

- Develop a procurement policy to favour the most sustainable options, with special consideration to local suppliers of materials, goods, services. Ensuring value for money and quality is also met in procurement activities.
- Ensure that catering produce, including tea/coffee in offices, is sourced from local, organic, fair trade (or other recognised certification schemes)
- Make active attempts to ensure all supplies used by Camborne Town Council are sourced sustainably.
- Encourage the use of eco-friendly consumables (such as cleaning products and inks) in Council premises while being aware of the needs of outcome required.
- Continue to work towards the delivery of a Circular Economy.
- Ensure suppliers have a commitment to responsible and sustainable procurement.

4.8 Employment

- Sustainable practices and behaviours are a requirement of staff behaviour and expectations in the workplace.
- Staff will be given training on sustainable practices during induction and during other stages in their employment with Camborne Town Council.
- Green Ambassadors will be identified amongst employees and supported to deliver initiatives in the workplace.

4.9 Awareness

- Promote awareness of, and information about, environmental issues within the community.
- Ensure that all individuals involved in the organisation are aware of their responsibilities in implementing this environmental policy.

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- Advise all contractors of the commitment of the council to delivering this environmental policy and request their support where appropriate.
- Fostering positive relationships with schools, colleges and other community organisations that can assist with the delivery of this policy.

5. POLICY OWNERSHIP AND IMPLEMENTATION

To deliver on this policy, the council will:

- Designate the Senior Management Team to oversee implementation and progress.
- Integrate environmental goals into annual budgets and strategic plans.
- Develop measurable targets and regularly report on progress.
- Seek funding opportunities and partnerships to support environmental initiatives.
- Ensure training and capacity-building for staff to align with environmental objectives.

6. GOVERNANCE AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every three years or as required to ensure its relevance and effectiveness.

7. SUPPORTING POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Camborne Town Council Corporate Strategy
Camborne Town Council Green Events Guide
Camborne Town Council Staff Handbook
Camborne Town Council Procurement Policy