



Knowsl@y Council

Environmental Policy

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1. Introduction

The vision of Knowsley Council is to deliver services that are always 'Improving People's Lives'.

Our Environmental Policy is a clear example of how we are working to create a better environment for the people who visit, live or work in Knowsley, now and in the future.

This commitment reaches into all of the services the Council provides because everything we do has the potential to affect our environment.

We will minimise the impact of our own services and operations on the environment through continuous improvements.

Some of the work we do produces greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane that contribute to climate change.

Addressing climate change is a high priority for the Council. We have signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and are committed to reducing our energy use, the amount of waste we produce and staff travel.

We will lead by example, encouraging and supporting businesses and the community to make the changes in lifestyle and behaviour that are necessary to achieve our aim.

The environment cannot be dealt with in isolation - to maximise the wellbeing of our residents, we are working to develop the borough in such a way that environment, social and economic issues have a positive effect on each other.

This is the principle of sustainable development and if we succeed, we will have developed a rich and healthy environment, for now and for future generations to come.

2. Policy Statements

ENERGY AND WATER

1. We will reduce energy and water consumption in Council buildings and schools, and minimise energy use in street lighting to reduce our carbon emissions and our use of natural resources.
2. We will work with residents and businesses in Knowsley to assist them in reducing their own energy use.

TRANSPORT

3. We will develop a Council Travel Plan and encourage staff to walk, cycle and use public transport.
4. We will reduce the environmental impact of our own fleet vehicles.
5. We will work with other employers and developers to implement Travel Plans, and provide improved and more accessible facilities and services to encourage the public to walk, cycle and use public transport.
6. We will take action to reduce transport use of residents and businesses in Knowsley.

WASTE

7. We will promote measures within the Council to discourage waste production, to recover, reuse and recycle waste material, ensure that the remainder is disposed of responsibly and increase our use of recycled materials.
8. We will provide a comprehensive recycling service to residents and promote waste minimisation to residents and businesses.

POLLUTION

9. We will take action to improve standards of cleanliness in streets and open spaces and to discourage litter, vandalism, graffiti, anti-social levels of noise pollution and other environmentally damaging activity.
10. We will take action to minimise the pollution of land, air and water by Council activities.
11. We will fulfil our statutory responsibilities to monitor levels of pollution in the air and drinking water and meet inspection requirements for contaminated land and polluting industrial processes.

12. We will take action to reduce the pollution of land, air and water by those within our influence, using legal powers where appropriate against those who damage the environment.
13. We will comply with statutory guidelines and wherever possible reduce the use of artificial fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides, solvents, and other environmentally damaging materials in Council activity and encourage responsible and informed practice by others.

BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

14. We will promote good designs and measures to protect and enhance the quality of town centres, green spaces, residential and commercial areas and to improve the visual appearance and image of the borough.
15. We will protect Knowsley's heritage and local distinctiveness by conserving and maintaining buildings of historic or architectural interest and areas of valuable neighbourhood character.
16. We will promote access to the Borough's green spaces for sport, recreation and health activities including a programme of events within the parks.
17. We will seek resources to restore derelict and disused land and buildings in urban areas for beneficial use.
18. We will promote biodiversity through support for the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan. We will enrich and protect landscapes, open spaces and develop environmentally sustainable methods of land management which maximise opportunities for wildlife.
19. We will promote the greening of the urban environment with appropriate landscaping and tree planting.
20. We will assess the future potential impact of climate change in the Borough and take appropriate adaptation action to protect the environment.

GENERAL

21. We will monitor the environmental impacts of policies and services, set specific targets and seek continuous improvement towards the development of an effective environmental management system.
22. We will comply with environmental legislation and other requirements to which the council subscribes, and ensure that all employees and contractors carrying out operations and activities on behalf of the council are aware of this Policy.
23. We will give due consideration in all decision-making to the environmental impact of new proposals as well as the social and economic consequences.

24. We will carry out procurement activities in an environmentally responsible manner, as set out in the Council's Procurement Strategy and implement the Government's Flexible Framework for sustainable procurement.
25. We will enhance employee and councillor awareness of environmental issues and policies through training programmes, build environmental responsibility into all service areas and encourage and support employee initiatives in environmental improvement.
26. We will promote greater understanding and a greater sense of responsibility for environmental issues within the community to encourage a positive attitude towards the care of the local environment and improvements in lifestyle and behaviour.
27. We will seek to understand and respond to community concerns about the environmental impact of our policies, services and operations.
28. We will seek to influence the environmental sustainability of economic development in the borough through business development services that promote environmental best practice. We will also seek to encourage investment from the environmental technology sector and other green sector organisations within the Borough and ensure that Knowsley's residents have the skills to access employment opportunities within this sector.

You can also get this information in other formats. Please phone
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