

Environmental Management Policy

Managing the Authority's Environmental Impacts

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Document Control Sheet

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Revision History

Version	Originator	Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	Julie Burton	December 2014	New (previous versions were environmental sustainability policy)
2.0	Julie Burton	June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change from Physical Assets to Property Services p2• 3.1 - Organisation chart revised to show current structure and relationships p6• 4.3 – Review information changed to reflect current status p7• 5.1 – Information regarding ISO 14001:2015 revised p7• 5.2 - Changes made regarding names of document (OOP 2020, Register of Compliance) p7• Changes made to Framework – context of the organisation in line with OOP 2020 and Warwickshire behaviours p9• Policy Objectives reviewed and revised as determined by Head of Service – Property Services and EMS Manager June 2017 to bring into line with current situation and OOP 2020 p11
3.0	Julie Burton	November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commitments revised to include greater emphasis on the climate change emergency declaration along with other minor amendments.• Policy document shortened to provide focus on essential elements
4.0	Louise Saunders	December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor amendments and updating.• Included reference to setting objectives and targets.
5.0	Louise Saunders	December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added reference to the Climate Change Adaptation Plan• Removed reference to certified EMS scope• Updated reference to Council Plan 22-27• Added reference to Sustainable Future Strategy, Energy Strategy and Property Strategy along with other minor amendments.

Approvals

Approved at Corporate Board Meeting 6 December 2023.

Name	Title/Role
Monica Fogarty	Chief Executive Officer
Rob Powell	Executive Director – Resources
Mark Ryder	Executive Director - Communities
Nigel Minns	Executive Director - People

1. Introduction

The county of Warwickshire covers approximately 763 sq miles (1,979 sq km) comprising both rural and industrial areas and supporting a population of more than half a million people. Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is the Upper Tier Authority for the county working closely with the District and Borough Councils to support the residents of Warwickshire.

Warwickshire County Council is committed to protecting and, where feasible, enhancing the natural and built environment of Warwickshire by managing its estate and the services it delivers in a sound environmental manner.

WCC has certain mandatory obligations to maintain Warwickshire's environmental resilience along with several voluntary arrangements:

- WCC is the county's waste disposal authority and is a key member of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership.
- WCC is the Lead Local Flood Authority for the county, working with other agencies regarding managing flood risks from surface water, groundwater and watercourses within the county.
- WCC is responsible for generating and implementing the Local Transport Plan as directed through the Strategic Economic Plan.
- WCC has a Biodiversity Strategy and works with other partners, including Wildlife Trusts to protect and enhance existing and future wildlife populations and habitats in Warwickshire.
- Warwickshire's Climate Change Adaptation Plan which has been created in response to the need to ensure that the Council and County is better equipped to withstand the impacts of climate change, now and in the future.

The authority is committed to enshrining these same principles in the way it manages those aspects of its own estates, internal services and associated operations which impact on the environment and has implemented an environmental management system (EMS) which is certified to ISO 14001:2015 through an independent assessment body accredited through the United Kingdom Accreditation Service. WCC's Environmental Management Policy follows the Plan, Do, Check, Act philosophy which is demonstrated in the associated Environmental Management System Framework.

2. The Policy

2.1 Policy commitments

Through its Environmental Management Policy Warwickshire County Council is committed to ensuring that good environmental practice is in place regarding activities carried out by, or on behalf of, the authority and undertakes to:

1. Comply with environmental legislation and other environmental compliance obligations.
2. Identify and manage the Authority's significant environmental risks and identify controls needed to reduce impacts to an acceptable level, including progressing potential opportunities for improvement where feasible.
3. Make best use of natural resources, including energy, paper and equipment, including consideration of life-cycle philosophy at the procurement stage.
4. Manage wastes in line with the Waste Hierarchy – 'Prevent/Reduce, Prepare for re-use, Recycle, Recover, Dispose (correctly).
5. Safeguard the natural environment of Warwickshire within the Authority's control – including adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change, preventing pollution and protecting biodiversity and ecosystems.
6. Ensure the effective management of the Authority's built and natural estate.
7. Maintain resilience regarding environmental threats to the organisation, its services and wider Warwickshire where the authority has control or influence.
8. Ensure that WCC staff have the necessary skills, competence and awareness regarding environmental aspects of their roles.
9. Continually improve the Authority's environmental performance and monitor progress through the setting of environmental objectives.

2.2 Environmental Objectives/Key Actions and Performance Indicators

There are many initiatives, either directly or indirectly relating to the environment, being undertaken throughout the authority. These may be outward facing, involving the services that we deliver to the public, or inward facing concerning the management of the authority's own estate.

Some of the key actions that will be delivered over the next few years, and which support the policy commitments as environmental objectives, are documented in the Environmental Management Framework (EMF), The Climate Change Emergency declaration, WCC's Council Plan 2022 - 2027, Covid-19 Recovery Plan. Relevant WCC Policies and Strategies support the furtherance of the commitments set out in the Environmental Management Policy, including the Sustainable Futures Strategy and Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Energy Strategy, and the Property Strategy.

Pertinent Objectives/Key Actions are documented in the EMS.