

# Worcestershire County Council's Sustainability Policy

Worcestershire County Council is committed to ensuring the principles of sustainability set out in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy:

- **Living within Environmental Limits**
- **Ensuring a Strong, Healthy & Just Society**
- **Achieving a Sustainable Economy**
- **Promoting Good Governance**
- **Using Sound Science Responsibly**

and which underpin the County Council's Corporate Plan, are integrated across all of our work to improve quality of life for all the County's diverse communities.

We will strive to ensure that the decisions we make work for the long-term benefit of Worcestershire's communities and take into account the impacts on the local and global environment.

We will demonstrate this commitment by;

**Continuously improving** our environmental, social and economic performance to maximise our positive and minimise our adverse effects on the environment and society

**Complying with** all relevant **legislation** & regulations

**Actively encouraging & monitoring** responsible environmental, social and economic performance by our suppliers & contractors

**Raising awareness** of and **encouraging action** for sustainability amongst staff, councillors, partners and the general public

**Fulfilling our role as a partner to deliver:**

- The UK **climate change programme** and reduce Carbon emissions through our participation in the **Local Authority Carbon Management programme**
- The England Biodiversity Strategy by actively seeking to **halt the loss of biodiversity** in the County.

*In particular we will:*

**Promote sustainable development at a strategic level within the authority:**

Developing ways to ensure strategies, policies and services for which we are responsible take account of their impact on local and global environmental, economic and social well-being.

Raising awareness of councillors and managers at all levels of sustainability and their role in promoting and monitoring performance on sustainability.

Facilitating cross directorate working on sustainability issues.

Integrating equality of opportunity and respect for diversity into all aspects of the Council's activity.

Encouraging citizens' participation and involvement on issues that affect them .



**Sustainability in Worcestershire - See the Bigger Picture**



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## Lead by example in addressing the Council's operational impacts on the community and environment:

Continuously improving the Council's performance in the following areas:

- Resource efficiency – Energy, water, materials, supplies, assets
- Reduction of Carbon emissions
- Reduction of staff travel by private car
- Waste reduction, reuse and recycling
- Sustainable construction & refurbishment of council property
- Protection and enhancement of biodiversity
- Prevention of pollution

Actioning the Council's Procurement Strategy commitment to promote sustainability by:

- Including consideration of environmental and social alongside economic issues in procurement and investment decisions
- Seeking appropriate opportunities for local sourcing to support the local economy and reduce transport impacts
- Wherever possible using recycled or renewable materials and supplies
- Offering & raising awareness of Fairtrade food & drink products as options

Raising staff awareness of environmental, social and ethical issues at work and at home.

## Promote sustainable development throughout the County:

Working with schools, colleges & other organisations to develop awareness of & action on sustainability by Worcestershire's Citizens

Helping Worcestershire's Citizens to adopt more sustainable lifestyles

Influencing the Worcestershire Partnership to ensure that policies and decisions reflect the Partnership's core values

Helping to improve the environmental and social performance of Worcestershire's businesses

Encouraging the development of a sustainable local economy including the promotion of social enterprises & enterprises based on environmentally sustainable technologies

*We will regularly report on progress and review this policy*



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