

# Dorset County Council Environmental Policies and Action Plan

## Policy Details

Ref. No.	PL/EN/12
Category	
People	
Place	Yes
Corporate	
In Constitution	

What is this policy for?	<p>Sets organisation wide environmental policy for the management and reduction of Dorset Country Council's Environmental impacts from its day to day operations and service delivery.</p> <p>Includes top level environmental policy statements supported by specific policies and action plans for – Waste, Energy &amp; Water, Transport and Sustainable Procurement</p> <p>Action plans updated more regularly and amalgamated into carbon management programme in 2009.</p>
Who does this policy affect?	<p>Organisation wide policy (s) established for Dorset County Council.</p> <p>Wide ranging influence across service areas and wider staff behaviour</p>
Keywords	Environmental Policy
Author	Antony Littlechild – Community Energy Manager, Dorset County Council
Dorset Council policy adopted from	<p>Dorset County Council.</p> <p>These policies apply across the Dorset Council area.</p>
Does this policy relate to any laws?	Cuts across range of environmental policy areas
Is this policy linked to any other Dorset Council policies?	<p>Dorset County Council carbon management programme</p> <p>Dorset County Council Environment reporting framework</p>
Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	An EQIA will be completed when the policy is reviewed for Dorset Council.
Other Impact Assessments	Policy development included review of financial and risk assessment in line with Dorset County Council committee paper proforma at the time.

## Status and Approvals

Status	Live	Version	
Last review date	Feb 2006	Next review date	
Approved by (Director)	Dorset County Council Director of Environment	Date approved	January 2006
Member/ Partnership Board Approval	Dorset County Council Full Council	Date approved	February 2006

Dorset County Council is committed to taking forward the principles of sustainable development and this is reflected in our corporate plan. Safeguarding our unique environment is a fundamental part of the County Council's role and at the heart of sustainable development.

We provide a wide range of services and recognise that how we undertake our work impacts on the environment. We are therefore committed to good environmental management and recognise that this is a vital part of being a well managed Council.

**In response to this the County Council shall**

*Seek continuous improvement in our efficient use of natural resources, protection of wildlife and reduction of pollution in all our activities*

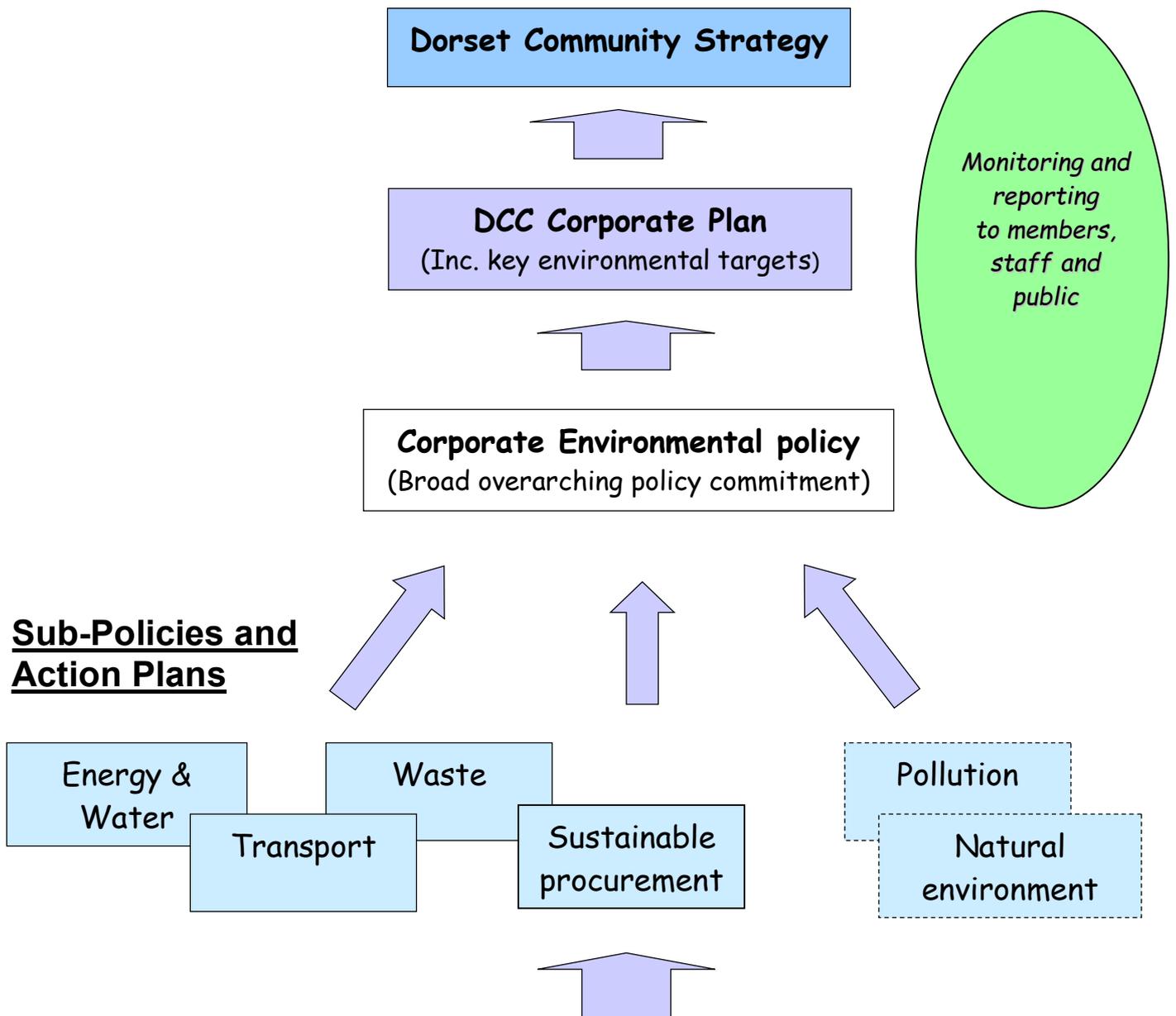
**We have set the following objectives**

- To use energy and water resources efficiently
- To reduce waste to a minimum and to reuse and recycle materials to the maximum
- To avoid and reduce air, land, water, noise and light pollution
- To protect and enhance wildlife and the natural environment
- To reduce the impacts from our provision and use of transport
- To avoid and reduce our overall carbon emissions
- To ensure the best possible environmental practices in the way we buy goods and services and encourage our suppliers to do the same
- To comply with all relevant environmental legislation now and in the future

**To achieve these objectives we will:-**

- Develop policies, targets and action plans for our key environmental impacts – energy, water, waste, transport, wildlife, purchasing and pollution
- Implement those policies, targets and plans as actively as we can, consistent with the effective management of the Council's resources
- Review and report on progress each year as part of our corporate performance management
- Develop and implement a programme to reduce our carbon emissions
- Use the principles of recognised environmental management systems within appropriate services
- Publicise this policy to members, staff and the public
- Ensure that members and staff are aware of their roles in taking this policy forward

# Environmental management & reporting framework



## **Supporting plans (examples)**

- Carbon management action plan
  - DCC travel plan
- Energy conservation strategy
  - Municipal waste strategy
  - Biodiversity action plan
- DCC procurement strategy
  - Sustainable construction strategy
- Corporate sustainability action plan
- Dorset renewable energy strategy

## County Council Transport Policy

We recognise that our use of vehicles, both in business travel and commuter journeys, can have a range of effects on the environment. This includes air pollution (contributing to issues such as acid rain and global warming), as well as the depletion of the earth's limited natural stocks of fossil fuels.

In particular we recognise the positive health benefits of reducing our dependency on vehicles and reducing the pollution they cause.

### **In response to this the County Council aims to:-**

#### ***Reduce the pollution caused by our use of vehicles for work related travel***

#### **We have set the following objectives (for all our operations)**

- To reduce mileage travelled by staff on business and getting to/from work
- To support alternative travel methods to single occupancy car use
- To utilise technology to remove the need to travel
- To maximise the use of less polluting technologies and fuels
- To ensure the efficient use of vehicles

#### **To achieve these objectives we will:**

- Produce an annual action plan to show what actions we will take to achieve our objectives and report on progress
- Implement the policy and action plan as actively as we can, consistent with the effective management of the Council's resources
- Ensure all staff are aware of their roles in implementing this policy
- Ensure our purchasing policies support this policy
- Ensure others are made aware of our successes and encouraged to do the same

#### **In order to evaluate the success of this policy, we will monitor and report on:**

- Annual business mileage travelled by staff (miles per employee)
- Annual use of fuel by our vehicle fleet (Litres) and the proportion of alternative fuels used.
- Annual amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) generated as a result of using vehicles for work related travel (tonnes/employee)
- % of employees using an alternative to single person car use, to commute to work (by annual survey)



## County Council Energy and Water Policy

We recognise that our use of energy and water results in the release of pollution to the air and the use of finite natural resources.

In particular, we are concerned about the impact of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), one of the primary greenhouse gases and a major contributor to climate change.

### **In response to this the County Council aims to: -**

***Minimise the environmental impact of our energy and water use,  
in particular our emissions of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)***

### **We have set the following objectives (for all our operations)**

- To use energy and water efficiently
- To minimise the use of energy and water, by investing in energy & water saving measures
- To explore opportunities for the application of renewable energy technologies
- To explore opportunities for the use of green energy in line with our utility procurement strategy

### **To achieve these objectives we will:**

- Produce an annual action plan to show what actions we will take to achieve our objectives and report on progress
- Implement the policy and action plan as actively as we can, consistent with the effective management of the Council's resources
- Ensure all staff are aware of their roles in implementing this policy
- Ensure our purchasing policies support this policy
- Ensure others are made aware of our successes and encouraged to do the same

### **In order to evaluate the success of this policy, we will monitor and report on:**

- The overall amount of electricity used by Dorset County Council (kWh)
- The overall amount of fuel used within County Council Buildings (kWh)
- Overall amount of water usage in County Council Buildings (Litres)
- The overall emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> , from the use of energy and water by the Council. (Tonnes)



## County Council Waste Management Policy

We recognise that our day to day activities generate a wide range of waste materials, from office paper to road construction, and that the way we manage this waste can have significant impacts on the environment.

In particular we are concerned about the overall amount of waste we produce and dispose of to landfill and how much of this could have been reduced, re-used or recycled.

### **In response to this the County Council aims to:-**

***Reduce the amount of waste we produce and the proportion we dispose of to landfill***

### **We have set the following objectives (for all of our operations)**

- To decrease the amount of waste produced
- To increase the amount of waste re-used
- To increase the proportion of waste materials recycled
- To ensure we understand and meet all relevant environmental legislation

### **To achieve these objectives we will:**

- Produce an annual action plan to show the actions we will take to achieve our objectives, and report on progress
- Implement the policy and action plan as actively as we can, consistent with the effective management of the Council's resources
- Ensure all staff are aware of their roles in implementing this policy
- Ensure our purchasing policies support this policy
- Ensure others are made aware of our successes and encouraged to do the same

### **In order to evaluate the success of this policy, we will monitor and report on:**

- The overall amount of waste generated from Council buildings (Tonnes/yr)
- The amount of waste disposed of to landfill from Council buildings (Tonnes/yr)
- The percentage of waste that is recycled from Council buildings
- Individual targets for specialist waste types, to include:- fluorescent tubes, oils, batteries, construction and road waste and green waste.

*We buy a wide range of goods and services to support our day to day activities. These will have a range of impacts on the environment, economy and people. This depends on how products are made, distributed, used and disposed of, and how contracted services are designed and delivered.*

*We recognise the significant contribution our procurement activities can have in reducing these impacts and maximising the opportunities for sustainable development.*

**In response to this the County Council aims to:-**

***Increase our contribution to sustainable development through the procurement of goods and services***

**We have set the following objectives for purchasing goods and services, across all our operations:-**

- **Minimise environmental impacts, including**
  - Minimise waste, pollution, energy and water use and the impacts from transport,
  - Maximise re-use and recycling and the use of efficient & clean technologies
  - Protect and enhance the natural and built environment
- **Maximise benefits to the local economy, including**
  - Maximise the use of local goods, skills, materials and services
  - Encourage supply chains to adopt good environmental practices
- **Maximise benefits to local and global communities, including**
  - Improve accessibility to services and green products for all
  - Maximise opportunities for learning and training and promotion of sustainable development
  - Maximise opportunities to support healthy lifestyles
  - Encourage equality, fair and ethical trade and address poverty
- **Take a long term view, -**
  - account for the impacts and benefits of products and services through their whole life
  - consider the implications of long term issues such as Climate Change
  - consider the needs of future generations

**To ensure the achievement of the above we will:**

- Produce an annual action plan to show the actions we will take to achieve our objectives, and report on progress
- Implement the policy and action plan as actively as we can, consistent with the effective management of the Council's resources
- Ensure all staff are aware of their roles in implementing this policy
- Ensure others are made aware of our successes and encouraged to do the same
  
- **This policy forms a central part of the County Council's overall procurement strategy**

