



## **North Devon Council Interim Environmental Policy**

The purpose of this Policy is to establish North Devon District Council's environmental commitment for the next 10 years. It covers all of the Council's activities and estate. North Devon District Council is a large employer and a significant resource user and we therefore recognise that our operations and service delivery have a significant impact on the environment.

In addition to fulfilling our statutory environmental responsibilities and complying with all legal and other requirements, including a commitment to a Carbon Neutral District by 2030, we will use our powers and influence to further protect and improve the environment, while encouraging and supporting others to do the same.

We will invest in the carbon literacy of the members and staff of the Council and work in partnership with stakeholders to achieve the objectives of this policy. The policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

We will:

Aim to become carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030, (including those arising from our purchasing of goods and services)

- Reduce the consumption of energy and water across all of our activities
- Minimise the impact of our travel<sup>1</sup>
- Improve our performance to prevent all types of pollution and reduce CO<sup>2</sup> and other harmful emissions from our activities.

Minimise the production of waste from our own activities and adhere to the principles of the waste hierarchy.

- Require our suppliers and contractors to reduce the impact of their goods and services by considering whole life cycle impact.

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<sup>1</sup> The Council's Climate Action Team commit to only meeting in locations accessible by public transport or virtually using video conferencing) and by developing more sustainable travel solutions where it is unavoidable

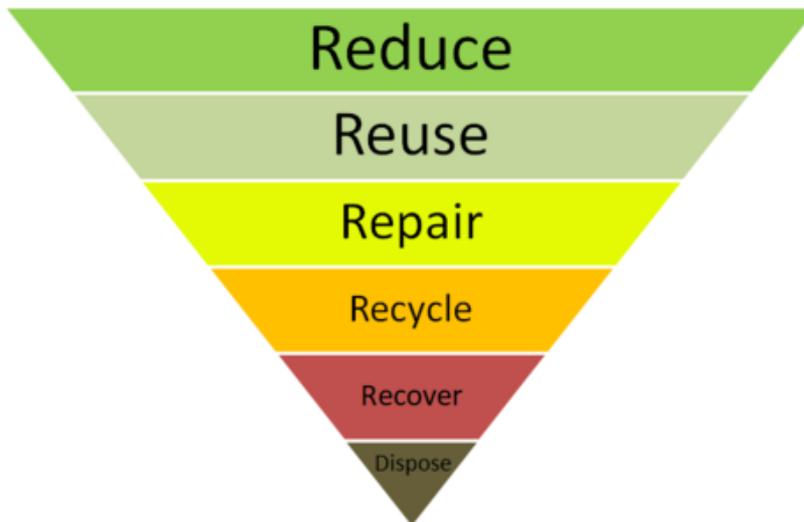
- End our consumption of single use plastics.

Ensure environmental risks and opportunities are managed positively.

- Protect, conserve and enhance our District’s built heritage by encouraging environmentally sensitive development through good planning policies and approaches to listed buildings and conservation areas and the effective application of building regulations.
- Protect, conserve and enhance our District’s high quality natural environment and its biodiversity whilst improving our parks and open spaces, public rights of ways and green corridors.

Support a District wide programme with the aim of making North Devon carbon neutral by 2030, going on to be significantly carbon negative by 2045.

- Support the most disadvantaged in our community to respond to the challenges of climate change.
- Plan and adapt the District to build resilience to adverse weather and climate change risks.
- Support the community in the reduction of waste and adherence to the principles of the waste hierarchy:



In order to achieve the objectives of this policy, we will operate an environmental management system<sup>2</sup> that will be integrated into the corporate management framework to:

- Apply to all activities undertaken by North Devon District Council, including contracted out services as new contracts are negotiated.

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<sup>2</sup> Approach to an environmental management performance system to be agreed by the Working Party for recommendation to Strategy and Resources Committee.

- Set objectives and implement action programmes in order to minimise the negative environmental effects and increase the positive effects of our activities.
- Develop procedures for training, monitoring, summarising, and reporting of environmental performance information to ensure continued organisational improvement through review and revision.