

## **North Devon Council Environmental Policy 2021**

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

Our flagship commitment is to reduce carbon emissions from our own estate and operations to net zero by 2030 at the latest, and to work with partners to develop and implement a plan to reduce Devon's carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. We will aim to reach a negative carbon emissions position for North Devon beyond this date.

This Environmental Policy sets out the Council's commitment to continual environmental improvement. Associated Action Plan(s) will set out the work the Council will undertake to implement this policy.

We will provide appropriate resources to deliver this Policy. Our Climate Action working group will work through our Strategy & Resources Committee to develop suitable plans, projects and initiatives. Our Senior Management Team and Heads of Service will be responsible for ensuring delivery of agreed actions within the Council.

In everything we do, North Devon Council is committed to:

### **Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero carbon by 2030**

We will adopt technologies and practices which "Avoid Reduce Replace Offset" emissions of greenhouse gases from our estate and operations, including our property and fleet and employee travel.

### **Adapting to climate change**

We will plan and adapt North Devon to build resilience to both the current effects of climate change and predicted future impacts. We will support the most disadvantaged in our community to respond to the challenges of climate change.

### **Using water efficiently in the Council's buildings and operations**

We will save water by reducing demand, harvesting rainwater and improving efficiency in existing and new buildings, and in our operations.

### **Reducing waste**

We will minimise the production of waste from our own activities and end our consumption of single use plastics. We will support our communities to reduce waste.

### **Preventing pollution**

We will improve our performance to prevent pollution, whether in the; air, land or water.

### **Protecting the natural and built environment**

We will protect, conserve and enhance the environmental value of our District's high quality natural environment, biodiversity and heritage.

### **Ensuring that the Council's purchasing power is used positively**

We will ensure that the environmental impact of the goods and services we purchase is considered within our procurement decisions, including through circular procurement.

### **Ensuring all staff and contractors implement our Environment Policy**

We will communicate this Policy to all employees and contractors working on behalf of the Council. We will raise awareness and train our employees and those working on our behalf to ensure that all staff have the knowledge, skills and understanding to implement our Environmental Policy.

In order to achieve the objectives of this policy, we will:

**Set Objectives** to improve our environmental performance and regularly reviewing and reporting our progress.

**Comply with Legislation**, Council policies and other commitments and aim to deliver best practice.

**Operate an Environmental Management System** that will be integrated into the corporate management framework.

**Work in partnership** with employees, other organisations, businesses and our communities, where appropriate, to further the aims of this Policy.

**Review this Policy** every two years (or more often if urgent changes occur) to take account of changes at local, national and international level.