



City of Lincoln Council's Environmental Policy

Scope of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to set out our goals for protecting and improving the environment and puts tackling the climate and environmental emergency at the heart of every council decision. The Policy covers all of our activities and estate, by which we mean properties and land owned and managed by the City Council, including our 'landlord' responsibilities for property and council homes.

All Council employees must apply the Policy where it relates to their role in the authority's corporate activities. We will encourage and support our partners to adopt their own policies.

We will also ensure, through the procurement process, that suppliers and outsourced service providers apply the policy to services or goods supplied to us or have an equivalent policy to work to.

As part of the council's vision 2025 priorities the council is committed to the following priorities:

- Let's drive economic growth
- Let's reduce inequality
- Let's delivery quality housing
- Let's enhance our remarkable place
- Let's address the challenge of climate change

Our Environmental Policy supports these priorities and will guide the development and delivery of a programme of actions across the five themes above.

Environmental Policy

In addition to fulfilling our statutory environmental responsibilities and complying with all legal and other requirements, including any voluntary commitments, we will use our powers and influence to further protect and improve the environment – making continual improvement in our performance.

We will:

- Work with partners on a city-wide programme to make Lincoln a zero carbon city and reduce our own emissions of greenhouse gas.
- Anticipate the effects of climate change and adapt our services to protect the City.
- Prevent or minimise pollution to air, water and land (including noise pollution, litter, fly tipping, soil and water contamination and the impact of car travel).



- Protect and, where possible, enhance the quality, extent and accessibility of Lincoln's open space, trees and natural environment for people and wildlife.
- Contribute to the creation of a sustainable, built environment through Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Policies and its implementation of adopted Local Plan Policy through the Council as the local Planning Authority.
- Wherever possible take steps to improve the environmental performance of residential and commercial, Council owned properties.
- Consider the embodied carbon and take steps to minimise the energy and water demand of all our planned new buildings, both residential and commercial
- Encourage and adopt the appropriate generation and use of renewables and low carbon energy.
- Use products and materials such as paper efficiently and specify goods that, wherever possible, have a minimal environmental impact in the extraction or sourcing of materials, manufacture, transport, use and disposal. We will comply with all relevant environmental legislation.

Implementing the Policy

▪ **Environmental Management**

At the City of Lincoln we recognise that we can affect the environment through: the services we provide and how we deliver them, our policies, our enforcement of laws and regulations, the choices we make when buying goods or commissioning services – as well as our role as community leader.

We will manage the significant environmental aspects of our activities to implement this Policy through a single Council-wide environmental management system. An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a structured and documented approach to manage and report on an organisation's environmental performance and responsibilities. The EMS will be monitored by an independent, accreditation body. We will use the EMS to monitor implementation of this Policy, taking steps to understand and control any risks of harm to the environment resulting from our activities, and to respond to opportunities for environmental improvement.

▪ **Communication, Participation and Dialogue**

We recognise the importance of effective communication in delivering this policy, as well as the potential of participation and dialogue to enhance progress.

We will communicate this policy within the Council and to our external stakeholders, enabling our employees and elected members to fulfil their role in delivering the Policy by providing information, training and other support.

We will also encourage dialogue within the Council and with our stakeholders to foster debate, learning and greater environmental improvement. This will include the public, business, education and community organisations and regulators.



Through our procurement processes, we will seek to ensure that goods and services we buy meet our environmental requirements and we will work with our contractors and suppliers to help them improve their environmental performance.

We will encourage the public, schools and partners to take action too, through environmental information, advice and services.

▪ **Accountability**

The Policy will need to be considered by our Policy Scrutiny Committee, approved by the Executive and will be reviewed annually.

All City of Lincoln council's committee reports will need to consider any environmental implications.

Environmental issues should be given preliminary consideration as part of new Council contracts and when reviewing existing contracts to ensure that enough time is allowed to explore options, consider best practice elsewhere and to consult with the Climate Change Vision group.

Delivery of the Environmental Policy is the overall responsibility of the Council's Corporate Management Team and will be overseen by the Climate Change Vision group, chaired by the Director of Major Developments. The Council will publicise its environmental performance each year to enable the people of Lincoln to hold us to account.

For further information about the Council's Environmental Policy please email climate@lincoln.gov.uk

Councillor Ric Metcalfe
Leader of the City Council

Angela Andrews
Chief Executive

November 2023

November 2023



Record of the Environmental Policy review process

- Environmental Policy version 1

During 2019 an internal consultation with the Council's Service Managers Group, Assistant Directors Group and Corporate Management Team took place prior to policy approval by Policy Scrutiny Committee on the 17th of March 2020 and the Leader of the City Council in lieu of Executive Committee due to Covid 19 restrictions.

- Environmental Policy version 2

In July 2021 the Environmental Policy was reviewed by Kate Bell, Climate Change manager, and Becky Scott, Head of Legal services in consultation with the Assistant Directors and Service Managers group. It was agreed that the Environmental Policy should require the environmental impacts to be included in the contractor checklist to be completed by the contract manager and Climate Change Manager and, where applicable, in Committee reports. The changes to the Environmental Policy were approved by Performance Scrutiny committee on the 24th of August 2021 and by Executive Committee on the 20th of September 2021.

- Environmental Policy version 3

In October 2022 a light touch review was undertaken by Kate Bell and Becky Scott and it was agreed that no further changes were required to the policy prior to approval and sign off by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive on the 1st of November 2022.

- Environmental Policy version 4

In October 2023 a light touch review was undertaken by Kate Bell and Becky Scott and it was agreed that no further changes were required to the policy prior to approval and sign off by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive on the 3rd of November 2023.

The next review of the Council's Environmental Policy has been scheduled to take place in October 2024.