



Salisbury City Council Environmental Policy

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Distribution

Internal: All SCC Staff

External: Website/Councillors/Partners

Salisbury City Council Environmental Policy

Introduction

Salisbury City Council is committed to minimising the environmental impacts of its operations.

In all activities, Salisbury City Council will seek innovative ways to mitigate our environmental footprint by setting objectives to reduce our environmental impact.

To achieve these objectives we have developed a series of policy statements and produced an Environmental Action Plan. The action plan is based on continuous environmental improvement via the establishing of demanding and measurable environmental performance targets, specifically relating to Waste, Energy/Water, Procurement, Transport/Travel and Biodiversity.

We aim to be a centre of excellence in environmental management within the parish council sector, and to promote environmental best practice.

The implementation of the Action Plan is monitored by the Environmental Working Group and regular reports given to Services Committee.

Salisbury City Council's Environmental Policy is supported by series of policies in the following areas:

- 1. General Environmental Management**
- 2. Waste Management**
- 3. Energy/Water Management**
- 4. Sustainable Procurement**
- 5. Transport/Travel**
- 6. Natural Environment**

1. General Environmental Management Policy

Salisbury City Council is responsible for delivering numerous services across the city via directly employed in-house team (some 70 persons) and numerous contracted services. The very nature of delivering these services has an effect on the local environment.

Salisbury City Council is committed to reducing the environmental impact of its activities on the local environment by proactive environmental management across its land and property portfolio.

Scope and Objectives

The City Council aims to improve the environmental quality of the city by:

1. **Minimising** any adverse environmental impacts resulting from our own activities;
2. **Encouraging** others in the community to do likewise through their activities

Salisbury City Council will adopt the following:

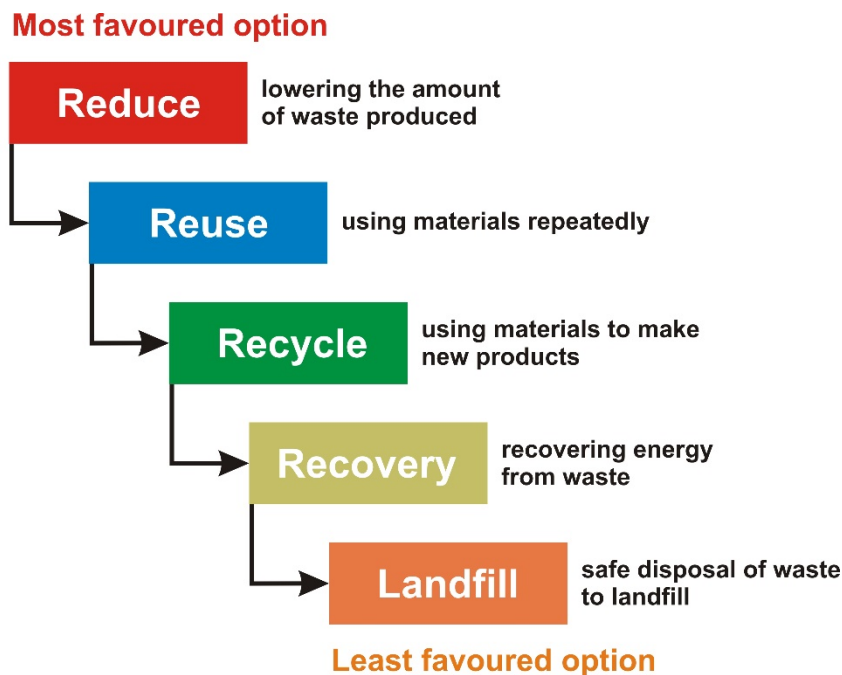
- **Keep its own activities** under review, setting objectives, targets and responsibilities to ensure the aims of this policy are met
- **Operate** an environmental management system (**BS 8555**) which enables the council to set objectives and targets, monitor performance and make this information publicly available;
- **Raise** awareness amongst staff of the council's environmental policy and objectives;
- **Provide** information and encourage an open dialogue with the local community on environmental issues.

2. Waste Management Policy

The Council's Policy is to establish systems to ensure compliance with the law and ensure that options to minimise both waste production and disposal are fully evaluated.

The Waste Management Policy sets out our targets identifying areas for improvement. It is designed to help achieve particular goals with a set of realistic objectives. The Council is aware of its responsibilities and obligations and encourages a positive recycling culture amongst its staff and the wider population.

Waste Hierarchy - the main principles of the City Councils Waste Management Policy Waste are based on the well-established Waste Hierarchy. This has become a cornerstone of sustainable waste management practices, setting out the order in which waste management measures should be prioritised based on environmental impact.



Our targets for inclusion in the Environmental Action Plan are:

- Baseline data for waste/recycling published
- Produce waste recycling plan covering all SCC waste streams to increase recycling and reduce waste to landfill

3. Energy & Water Management Policy

The Council's policy is to manage energy & water consumption in order to:

- Reduce emissions of CO₂;
- Avoid unnecessary expenditure;

The Council will improve water efficiency throughout all its premises, plant and equipment, wherever it is cost-effective to do so. The Council also recognises a duty to provide all building users with comfortable working conditions, whilst minimising the environmental impact of its operations.

Scope and Objectives

The overarching objectives of this policy are environmental protection and cost reduction. It is recognised that these are not always compatible and that the Council may be constrained from certain actions by budgetary constraints.

Recognising those constraints, the Council will nonetheless adopt the following objectives:

- To purchase energy supplies from sustainable sources (where possible) at the most economic cost;
- To use energy as efficiently as possible;
- To monitor energy consumption;

In order to achieve these objectives, the Council has developed an action plan. This plan will be reviewed annually and amended as necessary in an Annual Report on Energy Management, which will be submitted to the Environmental Working Group.

Energy Control Measures included in the action plan are:

- To monitor energy consumption across the councils property portfolio;
- To purchase energy supplies from sustainable sources (where possible) at the most economic cost;
- Use energy as efficiently as possible
- To continue to raise awareness of energy management issues with all building users.
- Electrical generation via the installation of solar panels on suitable SCC buildings/properties with a payback period consistent with sound investment practice.

- Identify and implement opportunities for improved water efficiency and target setting e.g. Install water saving devices on toilet cisterns and low flow shower heads
- Incorporate water efficiency measures into all new and refurbished facilities
- Promote awareness of the responsibility for water conservation to staff, and visitors by water saving tips.

4. Sustainable Procurement Policy

Salisbury City Council recognises and is committed to carrying out its procurement function incorporating the principles of sustainable purchasing.

Purchasing decisions have a major socio-economic and environmental implication both locally and globally, now and for generations to come.

It will achieve this through:

- Assessment of environmental and corporate risks to the organisation with a commitment to continually improve sustainable performance related to the supply chain;
- Complying with all relevant environmental legislation;
- Educating suppliers about the Council sustainable objectives, which include preventing pollution, minimising waste, preserving natural resources and promoting resource efficiency by eliminating, reducing, reusing and recycling;
- Working with key suppliers to bring about changes and thereby spread sustainability improvements through the supply chain.
- Allowing budgets to reflect the need to sustainable purchasing.

We will:

- Reduce CO2 emissions arising from the transport of materials – use local where possible
- Encourage suppliers to achieve environmental credentials such as environmental management systems ISO14001 or EMAS;
- Ensure that suppliers' environmental credentials are, as far as legally practicable, considered in the supplier's appraisal process.
- Favour products with recycled content or that are biodegradable;
- Train and raise awareness of staff on the Council policy and promoting best practice for sustainable purchasing.

5. Transport/Travel Policy

Salisbury City Council recognises its responsibility to minimise the environmental impact of its operations where possible and to seek to improve its performance through implementation of its policy.

Salisbury City Council is committed to implementing a Transport Policy as part of the Environmental Policy to encourage and maintain sustainable commuting and business travel for staff and visitors in order to reduce further the environmental impact of transport related to council activities.

Scope and Objectives

- Reducing commuter journeys to council workplaces by staff and visitors;
- Reducing Business travel impact
- Reducing the usage /impact of SCC vehicles

We Will:

- To produce a Travel Plan to establish current modes of transport used by staff to travel to work and to promote sustainable alternatives
- Encourage staff travelling on SCC business to use public transport and/or low carbon emission transport.
- Promotion of the use of telephone conferencing and video conferencing to reduce commuter mileage.
- Promotion of home working to reduce business mileage plus investment in ICT Services to support working from home.
- Reducing the usage /impact of SCC vehicles via investigation/introduction of suitable alternatives such as electric vehicles
- To promote to staff the benefits of cycling to/at work. Where bicycles are used for SCC business allow for an individual to claim up to 12p per mile for business usage.
- Providing to those staff wishing to cycle to work with an option of purchasing a bicycle on an interest free loan of up to £1000.
- Liaising with and providing information about the main groups representing pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, public transport providers, car share clubs and environmentally friendly car hire clubs.
- Liaise with Salisbury Air Quality Management Group to help improve air quality

6. Natural Environment Policy

Salisbury City Council is the major landowner in the City. We recognise that we influence and are influenced by the variety of species and habitats that exist within our sites in and around the city. As a minimum we will ensure compliance with all biodiversity, environmental laws and regulations.

Scope and Objectives

The overarching objectives of this policy are to balance the needs of the animals, plants, birds and insects that call our sites home. We are committed to continually improving our biodiversity performance at our sites, whilst aiming to deliver our services in the most sustainable way.

We will:

- Ensure an overall improvement in the management of the wildlife within our landholding, particularly with regard to an increase in priority habitats and species and managing the spread of invasive species. Continued creation of wildflower/bee friendly planting across our estate.
- Work with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to conduct Habitat surveys of SCC main sites.
- Ensure compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity during our activities with no net loss of 'priority' habitat.
- Provide a platform that will deliver opportunities for more people to enjoy the wildlife on our sites by increasing access/awareness.
- SCC has ceased use of pesticide in light of emerging evidence
- Where possible mitigate against flooding and be as prepared as possible for when flooding does occur.

Environmental Policy Action Plan

The Environmental Policy Action Plan (EPAP) will be managed by the Environmental Working Group (ENWG) who will report to Services Committee. This plan can be found on DOC84922.