

POLICY TITLE

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY POLICY

REVISION DATE

February 2021

REPLACES POLICY

September 2019

POLICY AIM

This Policy outlines Skegness Town Council's environmental objectives and demonstrates its commitment to managing the environmental impacts of its operations and improving its environmental performance. It also recognises the Climate Change Emergency that faces the world and seeks to identify the part that Skegness Town Council can play in contributing to reduce the risk and consequences of the change.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A number of environmental factors are arising locally, nationally and internationally that will impact both the future wellbeing and prosperity of Skegness residents in both the medium and long term. These include but are not limited to:-

- Climate change emergency and consequential rising sea levels
- Sea pollution - the impact of plastic waste on beaches, marine life and our own food chain
- Declining levels of biodiversity – declining numbers of pollinators within our neighbouring agricultural areas and the general fall in the variety of birds, small mammals, reptiles and insects.
- Air pollution – CO₂, NO₂ and consequential increase in asthma problems, hazy skies, smelly fume filled air.

This policy seeks to provide the direction to minimize Skegness Town Council's contribution to the problems and provide leadership by setting an example for other businesses and organisations to follow and to actively campaign in the community to encourage change at the local level.

POLICY STATEMENT

This Policy will inform strategies, action plans, operational procedures and other Policies.

Council will consider the environmental impact of any new decisions, policies, strategies, action plans and new services.

The Council will systematically review all its existing policies and operational processes over a 3-year period, setting Climate Change targets with a view to achieving these in support of the 2030 national targets.

Council will

CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

- Establish a Working Group to identify and implement actions to mobilise the local community to take action to reduce the likelihood and consequences of Climate Change
- Council, Committees and staff will consider the impact of all new decisions on Climate Change including the recording of this, where appropriate, in reports and minutes
- Draw up a communication strategy for Climate Change and use its website and social media to promote change within the community.
- Deliver clarity that Climate Change is everyone's responsibility.

ENERGY

- Minimise energy usage
- Move to renewable energy sources where possible
- Seek ways to offset the impact of energy use if reduction or swapping to renewable is not possible

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Collect more data regarding waste to inform decision making
- Reduce overall waste
- Increase recyclable waste as a proportion of total waste
- Seek to compost green waste

MARINE PLASTIC

- Aim to eliminate consumption of single use plastic from Council services
- Encourage the wider community to reduce single use plastic.

OPENSOURCE AND HERITAGE

- Improve outcomes for environmental issues balancing the recreational use of public open space with wildlife, landscape and historic value
- Demonstrate community leadership on issues such as ash dieback or other significant environmental events
- Get buy in from the local community to the importance of public open space and the need to protect this

POLLINATORS AND BIO-DIVERSITY

- Create and maintain areas that encourage greater bio-diversity
- Use planting and wild areas to support pollinators and insects.
- Support the protection of bird and bat populations through the protection of nesting, roosting and feeding areas when undertaking ground maintenance activities.
- Reduce the use of sprays and pest/weed control that damage bio-diversity.

IMPLEMENTATION

The policy will be delivered through appropriate changes to existing policies and procedures together with action plans including:-

Action	Date	Responsible
Climate Change Emergency Action Plan	Initial by 31/7/2021 final by 31/3/2022	Chair of Working Group
Energy Action Plan	Initial by 31/7/2021 final by 31/3/2022	Town Clerk
Waste Management Plan (Internal)	By 31/3/2022	Town Clerk
Waste Management (Littering)	Initial by 31/7/2021 final by 31/3/2022	Chair of Working Group
Supporting Pollinators and Bio-Diversity Existing services and Council land	Initial by 31/7/2021 final by 31/3/2022	Town Clerk
Wider community	31/3/2022	Chair of Working Group

MONITORING

The policy will be monitored in the following ways:

MONITORING ACTIVITY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Initially that the appropriate Action Plans are Developed	Council's Management Committee
Each Action Plan will contain its own monitoring activities	

POLICY CONSULTATION

None

POLICY APPROVAL

Management Committee approved 17/02/2021

POLICY REVIEW DATE

31st March 2023