

Westminster City Council Environment Policy

Approved by the Leader and Chief Executive of Westminster City Council, February 2007

The aim of this policy is to protect and improve the environment locally, nationally and globally by defining Westminster City Council's commitment to becoming leaders in good environmental practice and innovation.

Westminster City Council is committed to:

Protecting and improving the environment

- Preventing pollution of the environment, through reducing resource consumption and minimising emissions and waste
- Continual improvement in environmental performance by setting and reviewing targets to meet our Environmental Objectives (set out below)

Environmental law and standards

- Complying with all relevant environmental law, regulations and codes of good environmental practice

Assessing long term environmental benefits

- Ensuring that account is taken of life-cycle and long-term environmental costs and benefits

Environmental management of procurement and contracts

- Including environmental criteria, scoring and weighting in contract specifications, evaluation and selection
- Managing contracts in ways that achieve good environmental practices and outcomes

Making environmental information and advice available -

- Providing Westminster residents, businesses and visitors with environmental information and advice
- Ensuring informed commitment to the Environment Policy by City Council staff and service providers

Environmental management

- Providing environmental communications and training
- Integrating environmental management systems within the City Council's corporate procedures

Compliance with the Environment Policy and Environmental Objectives

- Ensuring that staff, contractors, suppliers and visitors comply with the Environment Policy and work towards the Environmental Objectives

The City Council's environmental objectives:

Climate change and energy

- Minimise carbon impacts and other contributions to climate change and acidification-
- Create conditions to substantially reduce energy consumption
- Use renewable energy sources
- Make adaptations to anticipate climate change effects

Air

- Reduce air pollution from vehicles, buildings and other sources
- Minimise vehicle use, vehicle emissions and fuel consumption
- Use and promote zero- or low-emission methods of transport
- Ensure clean air in buildings

Transport, access & mobility

- Maximise accessibility and mobility with the minimum environmental impact

Noise

- Prevent noise nuisance
- Contain, control and reduce noise

Water

- Prevent water pollution
- Cut down on the amount of water we use

Waste & recovery

- Reduce waste at source
- Reuse and repair materials that cannot be reduced
- Recycle materials that cannot be reused
- Recover resources from waste

Land & landscape-

- Ensure that land is not contaminated
- Protect and improve landscapes and open spaces

Biodiversity

- Safeguard and improve habitats as havens for wildlife and create new habitats
- Manage activities to minimise their impact on biodiversity

Built environment

- Minimise the impact on the environment of buildings, structures, highways, the public realm and construction
- Apply high standards of sustainability to building developments and refurbishments
- Keep the City clean

Procurement, resources & materials

- Minimise the use of materials
- Purchase vehicles, goods & services with the least environmental impact
- Use recycled products
- Purchase timber and other products from independently accredited, sustainable sources

Environmental awareness, education and communication

- Ensure that staff are environmentally aware and apply this in practice
- Promote effective environmental understanding for adults and young people
- Communicate environmental objectives and solutions to businesses and residents