

Leicestershire County Council

Environment Strategy 2011 - 2021

1. Our vision

Leicestershire County Council will continue to be one of the best performing County Councils in England on environmental issues. This will be because the authority has:

- An aware and proactive culture on environmental issues amongst staff
- A complete understanding of its environmental risks and impacts
- An environmental management system embedded into the management processes of the authority
- A comprehensive performance management framework for its environmental management
- Engaged with its supply chain to improve its resource efficiency and environmental performance
- Evidence of the positive outcomes that have been achieved for the environment

2. Background

Leicestershire County Council has a continuing commitment to the environment through the authority's Environment Strategy, originally prepared for 2004 -10. A second strategy was adopted for the period 2009 – 2020. This is a revision of the latter strategy and reflects changes both externally (e.g. central government policy) and internally (greater understanding and progress made between 2009 and 2011). This strategy focuses on the environmental impacts of Leicestershire County Council in delivering services and is not a strategy for Leicestershire. (The strategy for Leicestershire is contained within the Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy produced by Leicestershire Together).

3. Why do we need a new environment strategy?

We need an up to date environment strategy to:

- Provide community leadership and to show that we have “our own house in order”
- Support the outcomes of the Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy
- Improve our resource efficiency and deliver cost savings wherever possible, particularly in the light of the revised Carbon Reduction Commitment – Energy Efficiency Scheme
- Reflect the wishes of our staff – in 2010 only 70% agreed with the statement “I believe that the Council is doing enough to reduce its impact on the environment”
- Fulfil our commitment as a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change
- Respond to the Government's agenda for local authorities to improve their environmental performance and comply with environmental legislation.
- Ensure that the strategy meets the requirements of BS14001 to allow business units to apply for accreditation under the Environmental Management System Standard

3. The current picture

The authority's main impacts on the environment are set out below.

The following activities have been identified as significant because of their impact on the environment and the frequency with which they occur across the Council's operations. These are considered to be the corporate impacts of the authority as they are relevant to most of the operations delivered in all Departments. There may be other site or service specific environmental risks and impacts which need to be considered for a complete understanding of each service's environmental risks and impacts. The table below identifies each of the activities and outlines the associated environmental impacts.

Activity	Environmental Impacts (Both positive and negative)
Energy use in buildings (and street lighting) Use of water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon emissions increasing the rate of climate change • Depletion of natural resources • Depletion of natural resources • Carbon emissions increasing the rate of climate change (from energy use in water treatment and supply)
Transport including: Business mileage Fleet transport Contracted services and Commuting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon emissions increasing the rate of climate change • Emissions from vehicles e.g. Nitrogen Oxides and particulates reducing air quality • Congestion and impact on communities e.g. noise, health and general quality of life • Depletion of natural resources
Waste as a by-product of County Council functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methane and carbon emissions increasing the rate of climate change • Potential for pollution from landfill • Emissions from vehicles used for collection and disposal • Depletion of natural resources • Potential for contamination of land • Providing materials for recyclables markets
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the geodiversity/ biodiversity value of sites • Potential for pollution from chemicals • Depletion of natural resources e.g. peat use, use of virgin aggregates • Waste production • Increasing the landscape, biodiversity and historic environmental value of sites • Increasing the value of the public realm • Management of water resources • Management of natural assets e.g. Country Parks, Woodlands, agricultural estate
Use of resources e.g. office consumables, natural materials, paints etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste production • Depletion of natural resources • Potential for pollution from manufacture and disposal

4. Leicestershire County Council's Environment Policy 2011

Leicestershire County Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment of Leicestershire and to improving the quality of life for Leicestershire people both now and in the future. By minimising the impacts of our own activities and those of the community where we have duties or responsibilities to control and influence them, Leicestershire County Council will contribute to the improvement of the local and global environment.

Leicestershire County Council aims to:

- Move towards more sustainable use of resources
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change
- Take action to adapt to climate change
- Reduce the amount of waste produced and minimise its environmental impact by following the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle and treat.
- Conserve and enhance the County's biodiversity and habitats
- Conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of Leicestershire landscapes and towns, and provide opportunities for public access and enjoyment of green spaces.
- Support action to create a healthy environment, with reduced pollution and contamination
- Lead the community by demonstrating and promoting environmental good practice.
- Take action to reduce the risk, and impact, of floods and droughts
- Increase our use and generation of renewable energy

In support of these aims Leicestershire County Council is committed to:

- Critical examination of the impacts which our policies and programmes have, or could have, on the environment and timely actions to prevent pollution and minimise these impacts
- Integration of environmental best practice in corporate and specific policies where appropriate
- Setting of objectives and targets to support these policy commitments and to deliver continual improvement in our environmental performance
- Measurement against comparable authorities and other benchmarks
- Compliance with the requirements of all environmental legislation, and other environmental commitments to which we subscribe as a minimum
- Raising awareness and encouraging participation among members and employees in environmental matters
- Spreading and sharing knowledge across the Council through Go Green champions in all establishments
- Ensuring purchasing decisions are mindful of environmental impacts
- Working with partners, businesses, LA maintained schools, Academies and other organisations which demonstrate commitment to reducing their own environmental impact
- Increasing understanding of environmental issues, ensuring everyone has access to accurate information, which encourages sustainable lifestyle changes and encourages focussed voluntary action
- Requirement of staff to work to the 7 ways to Go Green

Objectives

- A The Council's carbon dioxide emissions are reduced
- B The authority increases its resilience to the predicted changes in climate
- C The amount of waste produced from Leicestershire County Council establishments, services and households is minimised and the percentage of waste recycled is increased
- D Residual waste per household is reduced
- E Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling, and composting is increased
- F The percentage of recycled aggregates used is increased
- G The Council's procurement of goods, works and services is environmentally sustainable
- H The Council demonstrates efficient use of water
- I All County Council sites maximise their value for geodiversity/biodiversity
- J The Council has reduced polluting emissions from its operations and from the local transport network
- K The diversity, local distinctiveness and accessibility of the Leicestershire landscape and towns is respected, conserved and enhanced by County Council operations and development
- L Staff, Councillors, partners and members of the community understand the Council's improved environmental performance and know how they can contribute to the achievement of the targets

5. Our targets

Objective	Performance Indicator	Baseline	2011/12 target	2012/13 target	2015/16 target	2020/21 target
A The Council's carbon dioxide emissions are reduced	CO ₂ emissions from local authority operations (formerly NI 185) (Stationary sources plus own fleet)	81,200 tonnes CO ₂ in 2008/2009	- 14% (on 2008/09 baseline)	-18% (on 2008/09 baseline)	- 30% (on 2008/2009 baseline) by 2013/14	-34% (on 2008/2009 baseline)
a) Energy efficiency	Energy consumption per m ²	225Kwh/m ² in 2008/09	- 20%	-22%	- 30%	- 34%
b) Renewable Energy	Renewable energy generated on County Council land and properties as % of energy consumed	Establish in 2011/12	Baseline	1%	4%	10%
c) Business travel	Total business miles claimed	10.985 million miles in 2008/2009	-10%	-15%	-30%	-40%
B The authority increases its resilience to the predicted changes in climate	Planning to adapt to climate change (formerly NI 188)	Level 3 at 31 st March 2011	Level 4	Level 4		
C The amount of waste produced from Leicestershire County Council establishments, services and households is minimised and the percentage of waste recycled is increased	Tonnes of waste produced from LCC sites % waste recycled from LCC sites	2010/11 to be used as baseline – figure being calculated 26% in 2009/10	Reduce by 3%	Reduce by 3.5%	Reduce by 5%	Reduce by 10%
D Residual Waste per Household is reduced	Residual waste is any collected household waste that	2009/10 554.7kg	540kg	Revised Strategy	Revised strategy	Revised Strategy

E Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting is increased	is not sent for reuse, recycling or composting. (Formerly NI 191) The percentage of household waste arisings which have been sent by Local Authorities across Leicestershire for reuse, recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion	52% in 2010-11	53%	53.5%	58% by 2017	
F The percentage of recycled aggregates used is increased	% of recycled aggregates in use in Highways and Waste	Audit in 2011-12 to establish baseline	Baseline	+1%	+5%	+10%
G. The Council's procurement of goods, works and services is environmentally sustainable	Total office paper purchased	09/10 23.787 Million A4 sheets	-15%	-17%	-20% by 2013/14	-30%
	% of high risk contracts where environmental considerations were included in the contract award (weighting of >15%) Monitoring purposes only	4 in 2009/10 with 15% weighting				
	Tonnes of paper used by LCC for commissioned print	Baseline to be established in 2011/12	Baseline	-2%	-10%	-20%

	% of spend through ESPO that is spent on goods identified as "Green"	30% in 2009-10	+1%	+1.5%	+3%	+10%
H The Council demonstrates efficient use of water	m ³ of potable water consumed per FTE	Establish baseline in 2011/12	Baseline	-4%	-15%	-25%
I All County Council sites maximise their value for geodiversity/biodiversity	% of land area in SSSIs in our ownership in target condition	95% in 2009/10	95%	96%	100%	100%
	Local Wildlife Sites and RIGs (Regionally Important Geological sites) in LCC ownership to have a management plan for their long-term survival	59%	70%	75%	100%	100% (review implementation of all plans)
	Green space in our ownership or management to have a statement of aims of how geodiversity/biodiversity can be enhanced	40%	50%	60%	90%	100%(review implementation of all plans)
J The Council has reduced the polluting emissions from its operations and from the Local Transport Network	Air quality - % reduction in NOx and primary PM ₁₀ emissions through local authority's estate and operations (NI 194)	2008/09 Baselines PM10 = 171 tonnes NOx = 6.9 tonnes	-14% on baseline	-18%	-30%	-34%
	Emissions from transport	1171ktCO2 in 2008	-2%	-3%	-7%	-12%

K The diversity, local distinctiveness and accessibility of the Leicestershire landscape and towns is conserved and enhanced by County Council operations and development	(A Roads, Minor roads and other) Implementation of the Strategic Green Infrastructure Strategy	Standard for access to Greenspace in Leicestershire	Baseline	+0.25%	+1%	+2%
L Staff, Councillors, partners and members of the community understand the Council's improved environmental performance and know how they can contribute to the achievement of the targets	Proportion of staff supporting the statement "I believe the Council is doing enough to reduce its impact on the environment"	58.9% in 2008, 70% in 2010	72% in 2012	No survey in 2012/13	75% in 2014	80% in 2020%
	Proportion of staff agreeing with the statement "I understand how I can contribute to green issues at work"	77.1% in 2008, 85% in 2010	87% in 2012	No survey in 2012/13	90% in 2014	95% in 2020

6. How we will deliver the change

The Environment Board will monitor the delivery of the Strategy as set out below. Environmental targets are set out in a range of work streams and the reporting arrangements proposed will ensure that the environmental elements of those work streams are monitored effectively. Overall performance will be reported to the public annually in October.

WORK AREA	WORK STREAM	REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS TO ENVIRONMENT BOARD
Develop, implement and continually improve our environmental management system	Environment Programme	Twice yearly
Deliver our carbon management programme	Carbon Management Plan, Accommodation Strategy, Business Mileage Reduction Project, Work Well, Energy Strategy (includes estate renewables), SCoRE programme, Green ICT Strategy, Choose How You Move	Quarterly Twice yearly Twice yearly Annually Twice yearly Quarterly Twice yearly Twice yearly
Support improvements in the day to day work practices of staff	Go Green Action Plan	Quarterly
Monitor and provide feedback on environmental performance	Environment Action Plan and Environment Performance Programme	Quarterly
Improve environmental procurement	Environmental Procurement Programme	Twice yearly
Minimisation of Waste	County Hall Waste Action Plan Waste Management Strategy	Annually Annually
Resilience to climate change	Climate Change Adaptation Strategy	Annually
Reduce our usage of water	Water Management Strategy	Annually
Monitor our management of land and buildings	Asset Management Plan Biodiversity Action Plan	Annually Annually



