

**Wyre Forest District Council's Sustainability Policy (DRAFT)**

Wyre Forest District Council is committed to ensuring that the principles of sustainability:

- *Living within Environmental Limits*
- *Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society*
- *Achieving a Sustainable Economy*
- *Promoting Good Governance*
- *Using Sound Science Responsibly*

are integrated into our work to improve quality of life for all communities in Wyre Forest.

**We will demonstrate this commitment by:**

- Monitoring and improving our performance in order to maximise our positive and minimise our negative effects on the environment and society.
- Actively encouraging responsible performance by our partners, suppliers and contractors.
- Complying with all relevant regulations and legislation.
- Raising awareness about sustainability issues and encouraging positive action amongst our staff, Members, partners and residents.
- Encouraging sustainable development through relevant council policies, including the Local Development Framework.
- Fulfilling our role as a partner to deliver relevant national, regional and county commitments.
- Implementing the Wyre Forest Climate Change Strategy, which aims to raise awareness about climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the district and help enable adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

**In particular we will:**

- Encourage individuals and organisations to take action to tackle climate change.
- Raise awareness of sustainability issues through staff and Member training and at public events.
- Monitor and reduce carbon emissions from our operations, including our own buildings, vehicle fleet and staff business travel.
- Ensure that any new WFDC developments are built to the highest possible standards in terms of energy efficiency and sustainability.
- Increase the use of renewable energy and incorporate renewable energy measures into new Council developments.
- Encourage more sustainable travel amongst our employees and partner organisations.
- Minimise our own waste by reducing, reusing and recycling and encouraging householders and organisations to do the same.
- Co-ordinate and facilitate action to tackle fuel poverty and improve home energy efficiency.
- Assess the risk from climate change upon our buildings, operations and locality, and put adaptation measures in place as appropriate.
- Support Fairtrade in the district and use Fairtrade refreshments at all Council meetings.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity in the district, including within our own estate.