

# Environmental Policy 2017

Stroud District Council is committed to continuously improving the environment by protecting and shaping our high quality natural and built surroundings, reducing pollution, mitigating the impacts and adapting to the effects of climate change, while encouraging and supporting others to do the same, for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors to the Stroud District.

The Council has direct powers and responsibilities in planning and land use, environmental health, waste management, housing, leisure and economic development. It is also a significant resource user and employer. It therefore recognises that its operations and service delivery have a major impact on the environment.

Stroud District Council will achieve its commitment by maintaining an environmental management system – currently EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) - to continuously monitor progress.

The Council will also ensure compliance with all relevant environmental legislation, guidance and best practice principles to fulfil its statutory environmental responsibilities. In this respect the Council will specifically endeavour to:

- Reduce the Council's own consumption of natural resources and energy and encourage others to do the same
- Support environmental initiatives that improve health and well being
- Prevent environmental pollution and reduce emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases from council buildings, operations and activities
- Reduce the environmental impact of our supply chain and encourage and where possible require our suppliers and contractors to minimise the environment impact of their goods and services including whole life costs
- Embed the principles of the waste hierarchy to prevent, reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose of waste from Council activities and across the District in respect of the Council's duty as the waste collection authority
- Protect, conserve and enhance our District's high quality natural environment and its biodiversity whilst improving our parks and open spaces, public rights of ways and green corridors
- Protect, conserve and enhance our District's high quality built environment and distinctive heritage by encouraging sustainable development through good planning policies and effective application of building regulations
- Plan and adapt the District to build resilience to adverse weather and climate change risks
- Minimise the environmental impacts of travel by developing sustainable travel solutions
- Provide information and support to both the public and staff to encourage interest in environmental matters

In order to achieve this, the Council will operate an environmental management system that will be integrated into the corporate management framework to apply to all activities undertaken by the Council, (including contracted out services as new contracts are negotiated). It will set objectives and implement action programmes in order to minimise the negative environmental effects and increase the positive effects of the Council's activities.