

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY FOR DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

Dundee City Council is committed to playing its part in achieving the Community Plan's underpinning principles of Sustainability, Social Inclusion and Active Citizenship. By working in partnership with the public, private, voluntary and community organisations, the Council will strive to develop Dundee in ways which safeguard the future of our environment, our economy and our communities.

The Council also recognise the environmental impact we have as an organisation and therefore aim to carry out our services and activities in a sustainable manner, that delivers best value and, as far as possible, mitigates any adverse impacts on the environment, having regard to social and economic considerations.

This Sustainability Policy sets out our commitment to improve our own environmental performance in undertaking our duties as a Local Authority and we will seek to ensure that the following principles are met:

1. COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

- Ensure compliance with relevant environmental legislation and related policy guidance and, where appropriate, seek to exceed minimum standards and targets so that Dundee continues to be at the forefront of environmental excellence.

2. ENERGY AND WATER

- Reduce the consumption of energy and fossil fuels in Council properties and activities to reduce CO₂ emissions in response to wider climate change obligations.
- Promote energy efficiency systems and explore innovative energy technologies that increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources.
- Use water efficiently and maintain the quality of drinking and bathing water.

3. PURCHASING AND PROCUREMENT

- Promote the use of recycled and recyclable products and ensure that goods purchased are made, used and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way.
- Apply the Council's Fair Trade policy and promote the use of fair-trade products.
- Encourage Council contractors and suppliers to improve their environmental performance, adopt sound environmental practices and achieve sustainable procurement.

4. TRANSPORT & TRAVEL

- Support the Council's emerging Travel Plan particularly in respect of journeys to and from work and during office time.
- Promote opportunities for sustainable transport and encourage citizens to walk, cycle or use accessible public transport to reduce private car dependency.
- Explore opportunities for using clean fuel resources in Council vehicles.

5. BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Protect the quality and diversity of the city's built heritage and enhance the city centre and local environments through ongoing regeneration.
- Adopt sustainable practices in the design, construction and maintenance of Council buildings and infrastructure, and encourage others to adopt similar practices.

6. OPEN SPACE AND WOODLANDS

- Protect, enhance and manage the city's open space and woodlands in a sustainable manner to enhance environmental quality, promote leisure and access opportunities and encourage healthy living.

7. NATURAL HERITAGE

- Protect and enhance the city's unique biodiversity and help implement the Tayside Biodiversity Strategy.
- Provide opportunities for citizens and visitors to enjoy and learn more about Dundee's natural heritage resources and the benefits of environmental stewardship.

8. WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Promote sustainable waste management practices by developing systems that will control waste generation and reduce the environmental impacts of waste production;
- Improve resource efficiency through re-use and recycling and maximise economic opportunities arising from waste.

9. MINIMISING & REMEDIATING POLLUTION

- Minimise the impact of Council activities on air and water quality and adopt measures to reduce noise intrusion.
- Monitor remediation of contaminated land and reduce land dereliction throughout the city.

10. COMMUNICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

- Communicate the Sustainability Policy to all Councillors, Chief Officers, employees and stakeholders and help mainstream these underlying principles in everyday work activities.
- Monitor and review the Council's environmental performance in respect of the Sustainability Policy and produce an annual progress report.
- Consult and advise communities on the Council's environmental practices and policies, in accordance with the Dundee Partnership's Consultation Agreement.
- Encourage and promote sustainable development by the private sector and other organisations in the city.

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Measurable objectives and targets for the Council's Sustainability Policy will be defined through an Action Plan and key corporate sustainability priorities. These will be monitored and reviewed regularly and publicly reported in the interests of open and transparent governance.

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Alex Stephen
Chief Executive

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Councillor Jill Shimi
Leader of the Administration

March 2006

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SEA is the process of systematically assessing the environmental effects of a strategy, plan or programme. It requires those public bodies (i.e. Dundee City Council) developing the strategy or plan - known as Responsible Authorities - to assess the predicted effects of the plan on a range of environmental factors, to assess alternatives to the strategy or plan, and to prepare a report of this environmental assessment which must be subject to public consultation.

The requirements for SEA of relevant strategies in Scotland are now covered by '*Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005*'. To ensure that SEA is effectively mainstreamed and properly integrated into the plan preparation process, the Council has developed an Implementation Framework for SEA."