

Old Catton Parish Council

Environmental Policy

Strategy

Old Catton Parish Council is committed to operating in an environmentally responsible manner, actively seeking to protect, enhance, and promote biodiversity within its jurisdiction while ensuring that its actions do not contribute to wider environmental harm. The Council will integrate sustainability into its decision-making processes and strive for continuous improvement in its environmental performance.

Context

The Parish Council acknowledges the national declaration of a climate emergency and recognises the global emissions target of 2030 and the net zero goal of 2050. As such, it will evaluate the environmental impact of its activities, introducing measures that mitigate negative effects and promote positive environmental outcomes within the scope of its financial and operational capabilities.

Commitments

To achieve its environmental objectives, the Parish Council will:

- Reduce the environmental impact of its operations, particularly in energy consumption and asset management.
- Explore opportunities to generate or support renewable energy initiatives.
- Prioritise the procurement of environmentally responsible goods and services, considering the sustainability policies of suppliers.
- Upgrade or replace inefficient assets with environmentally friendly alternatives wherever feasible.
- Assess and minimise the environmental impact of Council activities, ensuring responsible stewardship of local resources.

Aims

In all its activities, the Parish Council will aim to:

- Promote awareness of environmental issues and the importance of biodiversity within the community.
- Reduce resource consumption, particularly regarding energy use, buildings, equipment, and administrative processes.
- Engage with suppliers and contractors that uphold high environmental standards and continuously improve their sustainability practices.
- Support local climate change and biodiversity initiatives within the scope of its powers and financial capabilities.

Objectives

Old Catton Parish Council will actively strive to:

- Minimise waste generation and prioritise recycling and reuse of materials.
- Ensure compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.
- Apply the whole-energy principle when assessing the benefits of any new initiative.
- Continuously update and enhance environmental standards based on emerging knowledge and best practices.
- Implement strategic purchasing policies to avoid unnecessary waste.
- Dispose of waste safely and responsibly, encouraging responsible waste management practices among contractors and suppliers.
- Protect and conserve natural resources through proactive environmental management.
- Foster a culture of environmental responsibility among Council Members and employees.
- Investigate and support the transition to sustainable and renewable energy sources.
- Promote and encourage renewable energy projects and energy reduction strategies within the Parish.
- Support sustainable growth strategies, aiming to reduce environmental impact while maintaining community development.

Implementation and Review

To ensure the effectiveness of this policy, the Parish Council will:

- Monitor and review its environmental impact regularly.
- Update its environmental strategy in response to new challenges and advancements in sustainability.
- Engage with the community, local organisations, and relevant stakeholders to foster collaborative environmental initiatives.
- Report on progress and ensure transparency in its environmental commitments.

By adopting this policy, Old Catton Parish Council affirms its dedication to environmental sustainability and the well-being of its community for present and future generations.

Adopted: 14th February 2022

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