



Policy

Environment

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Lyme Regis Town Council recognises it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal and regulatory requirements. It is committed to reducing its environmental impact and continually improving its environmental performance as an integral part of its strategy and operating methods, with annual reviews. The council will encourage and influence the public, suppliers and stakeholders to do the same. This policy will specifically refer to, but is not limited to, paper, energy, water, transport, maintenance, cleaning, culture and monitoring.

2. Responsibility

- 2.1 The town clerk has overall responsibility for ensuring the environment policy is implemented and delegates day-to-day management of the policy to the operations manager. However, all councillors and employees have a responsibility to ensure the aims and purpose of the policy are met.

3. Aims

- 3.1 The council declared a climate and environmental emergency in 2019, with ambitions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2030.
- 3.2 To comply with, and exceed where possible, all regulatory requirements following government guidance and in concert with the principal authority.
- 3.3 To undergo accreditation as a Carbon Literate Organisation and thereby show leadership to our communities on practical environmental improvements.
- 3.4 To strive to improve the council's environmental performance.
- 3.5 Where practical, to reduce environmental impacts.
- 3.6 To consider environmental factors in council decision-making and understand their environmental impact.
- 3.7 To increase awareness of environmental issues, introduce carbon literacy training for all members and staff within one year of their appointment.
- 3.8 Scope 3 emissions encompass indirect emissions from sources not owned or directly controlled by the reporting organization, i.e., the Town Council, but are related to its activities, such as those from suppliers, customers, and the use of products.

Scope 3 emissions cover both upstream emissions from suppliers and downstream emissions from product use and disposal activities.

Upstream emissions included purchased goods and services, capital goods, fuel and energy, upstream transportation and distribution, waste generated in operations, business travel, employee commuting, and upstream leased assets.

Downstream emissions include transportation and distribution, product use, end-of-life product disposal, and downstream leased assets.

- 3.9 The council will use local labour and materials, where available, to reduce CO² and help the community.

4. Pollution

- 4.1 The council will identify, adopt, and promote technologies to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases within council properties and the wider community.
- 4.2 The council will minimise and, where possible, eliminate the release of any pollutant which may cause damage to health and the environment.

5. Paper and office supplies

- 5.1 The council will minimise the use of paper in the office.
- 5.2 The council will favour more environmentally friendly and efficient products.
- 5.3 The council will reuse and recycle everything it is able to.

6. Energy and Water

- 6.1 The council will reduce the amount of energy and water used as much as possible and use renewable energy providers.
- 6.2 The council will introduce solar panels on council buildings as they are refurbished.
- 6.3 Where practical, the council will insulate its buildings to improve energy performance and reduce costs and, when appropriate, retrofit with clean energy heating and ventilation systems. The council will encourage its tenants and residents to insulate and retrofit their homes and commercial premises, in accordance with government regulations and guidelines.

7. Transport

- 7.1 The council will reduce the need to travel.

- 7.2 The council will promote the use of travel alternatives such as email and phone conferencing.
- 7.3 Where reasonable, the council will accommodate the needs of those staff using public transport or bicycles.
- 7.4 The council will favour 'green' vehicles, where possible, when considering replacements and consider installing electric charging points for its vehicles and in its car parks.

8. Cleaning, maintenance and waste

- 8.1 Cleaning materials used will be as environmentally friendly as possible.
- 8.2 The council will favour 'green' machinery, where possible, when considering replacements.
- 8.3 The council will manage unavoidable waste and use licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste.
- 8.4 The council will minimise waste by the best practicable environmental option through eliminating, reducing, reusing, composting, and recycling.

9. Gardening

- 9.1 The council will garden organically and limit the use of chemicals to the essential where organic gardening is not time or cost-effective. Glyphosate products will only be used to tackle invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and mare's tail.
- 9.2 The council will favour 'green' machinery, where possible, when considering replacements.

10. Natural and Built Environment

- 10.1 The council will protect, conserve, and enhance the environment including landscape character, habitats and heritage.
- 10.2 The council will promote biodiversity and local distinctiveness and the conservation of both renewable and non-renewable resources.

11. Monitoring and review

- 11.1 The council will continually improve and monitor environmental performance by conducting annual environmental reviews against its objectives and by monitoring key performance indicators. The audit will feed into the council's annual corporate report and the council's strategic five-year plan.
- 11.2 This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if there are changes in legislation or best practice.

Implementation date: April 2025

Review date: April 2028

John Wright
Town clerk
April 2025