



ST IVES TOWN COUNCIL

# Environmental Policy

December 2023

<b>Version</b>	v.2.0	<b>Approving Body</b>	Full Council
<b>Date</b>	14.12.2023	<b>Date of Approval</b>	14.12.2023
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Town Clerk	<b>Minute Reference</b>	
<b>Oversight Committee</b>	Community & Environment	<b>Review Date</b>	December 2025

#### Version History

Date	Version	Author/Editor	Comments
13.10.22	0.1	Town Clerk	Adopted at Full Council
19.10.23	0.2	Town Clerk	Reviewed at Community & Environment Committee
14.12.23	0.2	Town Clerk	Adopted unchanged at Full Council

#### Review Record

Date	Type of Review Conducted	Summary of Actions Taken or Decisions Made	Completed By
19.10.23	Full	No changes made	Community & Environment Committee

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 St Ives Town Council recognises that a healthy environment is fundamental to the prosperity and wellbeing of our local community. The Council acknowledges that whilst our activities may have adverse effects on the environment, we can take steps to minimise those impacts.
- 1.2 The Council considers that the environment is important and will comply with and, where possible, exceed all environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice, as applicable.
- 1.3 The Council will make a positive contribution to environmental growth by protecting and enhancing the local and global environment.

## 2.0 AIMS OF POLICY

The aims of the St Ives Town Council Environmental Policy are:

- To increase environmental growth across Town responsibilities and assets for the benefit of the local community.
- To promote the importance and value of a quality environment, and to support local people in their enjoyment of it.
- To carry out our work in an efficient way that minimises or eliminates its adverse impact on our environment.
- To promote the development of a Circular Economy

## 3.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

The Town Council has declared a climate emergency and pledges to be fully carbon neutral by 2030. We have set out plans for immediate and long-term actions to reach this goal as set out in the Council's Climate Action Plan which include:

**Reducing Energy Consumption and Waste**

**Travel and Transport**

**Our Buildings**

**Green Spaces and Biodiversity**

**Procurements and Contracts**

**Planning**

**Working With Others**

The action plan contains a wide range of actions including bringing improvements to

our own estate and ways of working but also how we work with others. This document should be read in conjunction with the Action Plan. Examples include:

- Encourage staff switch off electrical equipment and unnecessary lights when not in use
- Encourage staff to close windows and external doors when heating is on
- Encourage staff to minimise the use of electric heaters and fans
- Introduce phased replacement of LED bulbs in Council premises
- Introduce phased replacement of electrical equipment used on Council premises with products of maximum energy efficiency rating
- Maintain our commitment to 100% renewable energy tariffs for electricity on Council premises
- Phased replacement of non-renewable heating sources (oil, gas fired systems) with renewables
- Invest in electric vehicle charging points
- Retrofit buildings with energy saving measures (glazing, roof insulation)
- Introduce natural climate change solutions (such as tree planting and rewilding) on Council assets
- Implement the recommendations within the net zero energy audits for each of the Council's buildings
- Agree measures to track the Council's carbon footprint over time

#### **4.0 NATURE & WILDLIFE**

4.1 The Town Council is committed to increasing opportunities for nature to thrive on the assets it owns or manages. Environmental growth will be achieved by:

- Protecting and enhancing the quality and extent of the natural environment in St Ives, Carbis Bay, Lelant, Halsetown and the surrounding rural areas.
- Supporting the conservation of trees, hedgerows, ponds, streams and coastal habitats
- Managing assets (including public rights of way, coastal areas, play areas, playing fields, and verges) including those owned by the Council and those managed on behalf of others, in a manner that protects and increases biodiversity
- Providing garden allotments for local residents where there is unmet demand
- Introducing environmental growth opportunities and activities, as appropriate, on Council assets
- Banning the release of balloon/sky lanterns and fireworks from Council land and events

## **5.0 PESTICIDE USE**

5.1 The Town Council is committed to phasing out the use of pesticides on assets we own or manage (with the exception of use for the control of Schedule 9 plants under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, such as Japanese Knotweed, or where it is used to reduce material risks to asset integrity).

## **6.0 SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL**

6.1 The Town Council will:

- Promote and support modern working practices, such as remote working and hybrid meetings amongst staff and councillors
- Encourage members and officers to car-share, where possible, when a car journey must be made on Council business
- Implement the adopted travel plan for the Guildhall
- Promote and support the use of cycling, public footpaths and public transport
- Ensure all Council vehicles are serviced and maintained to a high standard
- The use of electric powered vehicles will be pursued where this is a workable alternative
- Work to deliver low carbon transport goals through the Town Deal and Placeshaping Boards.

## **7.0 WATER MANAGEMENT**

7.1 The Town Council is committed to responsible water management and conservation throughout its operations, which include:

- Encouraging staff, allotment holders and hirers to use water efficiently on Council premises
- Where possible, utilising water butts as a non-drinking water source
- Ensuring staff and users are aware of which materials can be disposed of in waste water
- Promoting and supporting natural solutions to reduce/reuse surface water run-off in the Parish
- Ensuring replacement equipment in all public toilets reduce water and energy use

## **8.0 WASTE & RECYCLING**

8.1 The Town Council will:

- Keep waste to a minimum by preventing, reusing, recycling or recovering waste
- Ensure waste is sorted, stored and disposed of appropriately
- Cease use of single-use plastics on Council premises and events and implement its single uses plastics policy

- Recycle all recyclable waste generated at Council premises and events
- Promote and encourage recycling across the Parish
- Use recyclable, compostable and/or recycled products on Council premises
- Reduce the production of non-recyclable resources such as laminated or plastic based publicity material
- Minimise the amount of printing and minimise the amount of waste paper
- Observe our duty of care conscientiously within our waste contracts
- Utilise electronic communications and maintain the Council's paperless meetings policy and the opt-in by exception scheme for printing paper documents
- Minimise pollution and prevent where possible (including light, noise, solids, liquids and chemicals)
- Use composting facilities at relevant operated amenities including allotments and the recreation ground
- Work with BID to identify scope for a new commercial waste contract for St Ives.

## 9.0 DEVELOPMENT

### 9.1 The Town Council will:

- Support planning applications where the applicant can demonstrate biodiversity net gain
- Be mindful of Policy Statements set out in Cornwall's Climate Action DPD and the Shoreline Management Plan 2 (SMP2) (*for coastal authorities*)
- Work to implement Dark Skies policies reflecting the parish's inclusion in the dark skies park and the location of the town in the buffer zone.
- Enforce policies within the Neighbourhood Development Plan which protect and enhance the environment

## 10.0 RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

### 10.1 The Town Council will:

- Source materials and services locally so long as the requirements for value for money and quality are met
- Ensure that catering produce, including tea/coffee in offices, is plant-based and sourced from local, organic, fair trade (or other recognised certification schemes)
- Ensure that timber, or similar products, used by the Council will be from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified sources
- Ensure that consumables used on Council premises (such as cleaning products and inks) are eco-friendly
- Ensure that procurement of goods and services are weighted appropriately to encourage local suppliers thereby promoting the Circular Economy
- Advise key suppliers of the Council's policies and request that goods are not supplied or dispatched using single use plastics or unnecessary packaging
- Ensure that the Council's procurement policies give suitable weight to social value objectives

## **11.0 AWARENESS, LOBBYING & PARTNERSHIPS**

11.1 The Town Council will:

- Promote awareness of, and information about, environmental issues within the community
- Support, and act as a voice for, local environmental concerns within the community
- Ensure that all individuals involved in the organisation (including contractors) are aware of their responsibilities in implementing this environmental policy
- Work with partners, where appropriate, to increase environmental growth within the Parish
- Work with partners to implement the actions in the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan

## **12.0 ENERGY USE**

12.1 The Town Council will:

- Implement the findings of audits of its existing energy use
- Produce a plan on how the Council's energy use can be reduced
- Procure energy from sustainable sources
- Maximise use of wind and solar energy on its premises
- Promote use of renewable energy in the Parish

## **13.0 CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

13.1 The Town Council will:

- Undertake an audit of the materials and services used by the Council
- Develop policies that encourage the development of a Circular Economy in the Parish
- Promote and encourage the use of local suppliers in procurement policies.

## **14.0 REVIEW**

14.1 This policy and its application will be subject to annual review to ensure that it continues to reflect the aims and objectives of St Ives Council and promotes continuous environmental improvement throughout the Council's operations.