

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1.0 Statement

1.1 ***This policy statement affirms that Oxenhope Parish Council is committed to the preservation of the environment.***

2.0 Responsibilities

2.1 The council will strive to:

- Raise the awareness of key decision makers
- Ensure that the implications of health, social, environmental and economic well being of the community are considered within policies
- Share good practice with partners and the community
- Undertake training and education and to share that knowledge

2.2 The council believes that this policy must have the support of staff, partners and the community to be successful. The policy will be measured and reviewed on a regular basis.

3.0 Approaches

3.1 The approaches the council will take in adhering to this commitment are:

- Embedding green awareness in policy and organisational development
- Implementing environmental measures
- Information, education and personal development
- Alliance and partnership working
- Transportation management

PROCEDURE

1.0 Objectives

1.1 ***Oxenhope Parish Council shall:***

- maintain respect for natural resources by ensuring the most efficient use of materials and by using renewable, recyclable products wherever possible;
- ensure the use of environmentally friendly products wherever practicable;
- minimise, where possible, the creation of waste, especially hazardous waste, and wherever possible, recycle or reuse materials; dispose of all waste through safe and responsible methods in compliance with the relevant environmental legislation;
- ensure the responsible use of energy throughout the council by conserving energy, improving energy efficiency, seeking to utilise safer energy sources and giving preference to renewable over finite energy resources wherever possible;
- Encourage employees to act to minimise the effects of atmospheric pollution from vehicles.
- Encourage employees to use public transport and minimise car journeys wherever reasonable practicable

This policy will apply to all aspects of the council's activities including all projects, buildings, machinery and transportation.

2.0 Activities to Achieve the Objectives

2.1 Oxenhope Parish Council shall:

- monitor and coordinate the environmental performance of the organisation;

- conduct periodic environmental reviews and self evaluation of its compliance with the environmental policy;
- prepare, implement and monitor action plans to improve performance;
- Report these findings to the community.
- support and encourage contractors, suppliers and other associates to minimise their impact on the environment through the communication of its environmental policy and strategic purchasing and contract policies:
- actively seek to influence others to adopt environmental policies and good environmental management;
- Actively seek the purchase of materials and the appointment of local contractors whenever such skills and materials exist locally.

3.0 Tenders

3.1 Since the council, as a public body expending public funds, is also required to secure good value for money, purchasing decisions will take account of both environmental and value for money factors. Tenders will make clear what requirements are mandatory and which are desirable but discretionary.

4.0 General

4.0 Each member and employee of the council will:

- Take responsibility for the implementation of the environmental policy;
- Encourage volunteers and members of other organisations to adopt good practices so as to improve the environmental performance of their organisation and improve its impact upon the environment.

Oxenhope Parish Council
9th July 2009

Date of review: July 2010

Signed by the Chairman: