

Environment Department Environmental Policy

Our environmental policy is a statement of our intentions and principles in relation to the overall environmental impact of the services that we provide. Together with the county council corporate plan and our service planning process, it provides us with a framework for action and allows us to set environmental objectives and targets that help us fulfil our commitment to continual improvement, preventing pollution, legal compliance and making Hertfordshire a more sustainable place.

We are committed to continual environmental improvement and will manage this through an environmental management system (EMS). We will assess our significant environmental impacts and address them through our service planning framework. Recognising the range of activities that the Environment Department manages, we will take direct action to improve the sustainability of Hertfordshire by

- Considering the consumption of energy, water, resources and materials; the purchasing and contractual arrangements and the waste and transport issues associated with our key strategies, policies and actions;
- Protecting, preserving and enhancing the natural resources and built environment of Hertfordshire;
- Encouraging working practices that minimise our negative impact on the environment.

The main principles, applied within financial and resource constraints, include:

Legal compliance

- Complying with all relevant legislation, regulations and other requirements to which we subscribe;

Appraisal

- Conducting environmental appraisals of options being considered during the development and review of policies, plans and strategies;

Operational improvement

- Adopting practices which promote continual environmental and operational improvement in the maintenance of assets under our care;

Contract compliance

- Promoting continual environmental improvement within contracts and reviewing compliance to ensure that this improvement continues through the life of the contract;

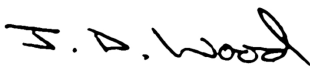
Information

- Providing the public with easy access to timely, accurate and useful information, including the monitoring of key indicators, and encouraging feedback;

Influencing & Working in Partnership

- Applying these principles to partnerships in which we are involved and encouraging other organisations to adopt similar policies.

We will periodically review this policy and revise it to reflect our achievements and changing needs.

Signed: 

Director of Environment

Date: 13th July 2005

For further information please contact:
Environment Department,
Hertfordshire County Council,
County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8DN
01438 737321
www.hertsdirect.org



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