

Lewisham Council's Commitment To The Environment

This document outlines our approach to delivering services across Lewisham in the most environmentally aware way. We recognise that taking practical, measurable steps to reduce our own environmental impact is one of the best ways we can encourage and inspire everyone who lives, works and learns in Lewisham. Lewisham Council is committed to creating a borough that is clean, green and liveable. We will ensure we enhance and improve our environment and seek to minimise the environmental impact of all our operations through:

- Our policies
- Our services
- The way we use our own resources

We will work with residents, business and our partners across the borough to achieve positive environmental outcomes, aiming for a better quality of life for all who live and work in Lewisham; both now and for generations to come. The Council is committed to continually improving its environmental performance, and wherever possible go beyond the minimum requirements set out in current legislation or regulation. In this respect everyone in Lewisham Council will do their part to:

- Promote sustainable development and integrate environmental sustainability into Council projects, plans and policies.
- Lower our carbon emissions as part of achieving the borough, regional and national targets
- Mitigate and adapt to the potential impacts of climate change across the borough, ensuring we can continue to deliver our services by responding to the effects of a changing climate and the increased frequency of extreme weather events.
- Work in partnership with residents, public, private and voluntary sector bodies to provide advice and opportunities for people to make environmentally friendly choices and minimise their personal impact on the environment.
- Provide all staff with practical support in helping them reduce the environmental impact of their work.
- Reduce the volume of waste generated by the Council by reducing, reusing and recycling resources wherever practicable.
- Ensure that, as far as is reasonably practicable, energy and raw materials are drawn from sustainable and non-polluting sources and used effectively, whilst delivering best value for residents having regard to short and long term financial and environmental costs.
- Ensure environmental implications are factored into decision-making processes
- Minimise the environmental impacts of the council's fleet and staff commuter travel by encouraging the use of sustainable forms of, or alternatives to, more polluting forms of transportation.
- Consider the impact of proposals on the biodiversity of the borough, seeking to improve or protect it where possible.
- Integrate environmental considerations into procurement decision making processes and encourage our suppliers and contractors to improve their environmental performance.
- Measure and monitor our use of resources and use this to drive improvements.