

St Austell Town Council



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

CONTENTS	Page
1. Introduction	3
2. Aims of policy	3
3. List of policies	3
i. Climate change	3
ii. Nature & wildlife	4
iii. Pesticide use	4
iv. Sustainable travel	5
v. Water management	5
vi. Waste & recycling	5
vii. Development	6
viii. Responsible & sustainable procurement	6
ix. Awareness, lobbying & partnerships	6
x. Energy use	7
xi. Circular economy	7
4. Review	7

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 St Austell Town Council recognises that a healthy environment is fundamental to the prosperity and wellbeing of our local community. The Council acknowledges that whilst some of 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 complies with environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice where relevant.

1.3 The Council will continue to make a positive contribution to environmental growth by protecting and enhancing its assets where it can.

2. AIMS OF POLICY

2.1 The aims of the St Austell Town Council Climate & Environmental Policy are:

- To increase environmental growth across the Town Council's 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 its adverse impact on our environment.
- To promote the development of a Circular Economy.

3. LIST OF POLICIES

Climate Change

The Town Council has declared a climate emergency and will work to be carbon neutral by 2030. We will set out plans for immediate and long-term actions to reach this goal which include:

- Encouraging staff to switch off electrical equipment and unnecessary lights when not in use.
- Encouraging staff to close windows and external doors when the heating is on.
- Encouraging staff to minimise the use of electric heaters and fans.
- Introducing phased replacement of existing lighting with LED bulbs in Council premises.
- Introducing phased replacement of electrical equipment used on Council premises with products of maximum energy efficiency rating.
- Switching to 100% renewable energy tariffs for electricity on Council premises.

- Resources permitting, the phased replacement of non-renewable heating sources (oil, gas fired systems) with renewables.
- Resources permitting, investing in electric car charging points.
- Resources permitting, retrofit buildings with energy saving measures (glazing, roof insulation).
- The continuance of natural climate change solutions (such as tree planting and rewilding) on Council assets.
- A carbon accounting audit to assess the Council's current emissions.
- The implementation of measures to track the Council's carbon footprint over time.

Nature and Wildlife

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 the Town Council's area.
- Supporting the conservation of trees, hedgerows, ponds and streams in the Town Council's area.
- Managing the Town Council assets (including public rights of way, play areas, woodland, open spaces and verges) in a manner that protects and increases biodiversity.
- Introducing environmental growth opportunities and activities, as appropriate, on Town Council assets.
- Banning the release of balloons/sky lanterns from Town Council land and events.

[Parks and Open Spaces Strategy - Approved 22nd March 2021.pdf \(staustell-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

[Grass Cutting Policy](#)

[Tree Planting Policy.pdf \(staustell-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

[Green Spaces Audit and Management Plan - Approved 22nd March 2021compressed.pdf \(staustell-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

Pesticide Use

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) and is exploring alternatives.

Sustainable Travel

The Town Council will:

- Encourage members and officers to car-share, where possible, when a car journey must be made on Council business.
- Promote and support the use of cycling, public footpaths and public transport.
- Ensure all Council vehicles are serviced and maintained to a high standard.
- Explore the use of electric powered vehicles where this is an affordable workable alternative.

Water Management

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.
- Installing water butts as a non-drinking water source where possible.
- 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 St Austell.

Waste and Re-cycling

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.
- Minimise use of single-use plastics on Council premises and events.
- Recycle all recyclable waste (where practicable) generated at Council premises and events.
- Promote and encourage recycling across St Austell.
- 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; councillors to use an opt-in scheme for printing paper documents.
- Minimise and prevent pollution where possible (including light, noise, solids, liquids and chemicals).
- Use composting facilities where possible.

Development

The Town Council will:

- Favour planning applications where the applicant can demonstrate a biodiversity net gain.
- Favour planning applications where buildings are constructed with energy saving features and high levels of sustainability.

Responsible and Sustainable procurement

The Town Council will:

- Source materials and services locally so long as the requirements for value for money and quality are met.
- Ensure that timber, or similar products, used by the Council will be from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified sources.
- Ensure that the evaluation processes for the procurement of goods and services are weighted appropriately to encourage local suppliers thereby promoting the Circular Economy.

Awareness, Lobbying and Partnerships

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 St Austell.

Energy Use

The Town Council will:

- Undertake an audit of its existing energy use.
- Produce a plan on how the Council's energy use can be reduced.
- Procure energy from sustainable sources if economically sound to do so.
- Maximise the use of wind and solar energy on its premises if economically sound to do so.
- Promote use of renewable energy in St Austell.

Circular Economy

The Town Council will:

- Develop policies that encourage the development of a Circular Economy in St Austell.
- Promote and encourage the use of local suppliers in procurement policies.

Review

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