

- Increase numbers of Council staff **volunteering** for local good causes
- Operate **flexible working** to **reduce travel** and promote **efficiency savings**
- Offer excellent **training opportunities** and **career development**
- Maintain our certification to the **international standard** for environment, ISO 14001
- Continue to support our schools in gaining **EcoSchool's** awards

## Surroundings

*We will conserve (or protect) our outstanding natural and historic environment.*

## How? We do/will

- Keep sustainable development at the heart of the Council's **Unitary Development Plan** and **Local Development Framework**

- Take a pro-active, sustainable approach to our **land management**
- Increase support for **Parish Plans**
- Further promote **Streetscene** to make **environmental improvements** and **reduce enviro-crimes** and **anti-social behaviour**
- Ensure high **environmental standards** for **new build**
- Promote the management of land to conserve **biodiversity**
- Monitor our **salt use** in winter - so salt is not wasted and run off to surrounding land is minimised
- Respond to emergencies such as **flooding** and plan for **business continuity** both internally and with others.
- Operate **pollution control** through regulation and enforcement, including contaminated land, air and water pollution and abandoned vehicles.

If you need help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please call 01432 261838 or email [gem@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:gem@herefordshire.gov.uk)

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**Service with integrity, equity and empathy**



# Steps to sustainability



Designed by the communications team, Herefordshire Council, 35 Hatford Road Hereford, HR1 1SH (HFD-225)

**So much is talked about 'sustainability', carbon footprints, and climate change: Herefordshire Council has pledged to translate words into actions, taking steps in all its activities to behave responsibly towards the environment.**

**Sustainability is not a mystic concept, but an achievable goal in which everyone has a part to play. Herefordshire Council aims to lead by example and model steps we can all take; simple behavioural patterns and thought processes that, over time will make a difference.**

Herefordshire Council is committed to behave in a sustainable manner in the way it conducts its business, its relationship with its employees and its interaction with its stakeholders.

*We are committed to ISO 14001- Good Environmental Management - and will encourage, deliver, report and publicise our progress with objectives and commitments to sustainability. We will maximise our efforts through working with the community and in partnership with others.*

## **Waste**

*We recognise the need for waste minimisation in our own behaviours, those of other businesses and the public. We will look at all council activities both internally and the services we deliver, to reduce waste and minimise the amount of waste going to landfill.*

### **How? We do/will**

- Work to reduce **trade waste** produced by the Council and **recycle** what we can.
- Use the revised **Municipal Waste Strategy** to work with the public to cut the amount of **household waste** generated, the amount going to landfill and increase **recycling** and **home composting**.
- Support the **Herefordshire Business Environment Association**, which works with local businesses to improve their environmental performance.

## **Climate change**

*We will reduce our carbon footprint, working to decrease CO2 emissions from our activities and per head of population, and encourage our partners and contractors to do the same. We will work with businesses and the people of Herefordshire to ensure proper understanding of the causes and effects of climate change, and how they can help both combat and adjust to it.*

### **How? We do/will**

- Drive down **business miles** by using **sustainable transport** alternatives
- Operate a **Staff Travel plan** to reduce numbers of council worker **solo car commuter trips**
- Provide pool bikes and pool cars to continue to reduce business mileage
- Encourage a **reduction in energy** use in private housing through provision of grants, energy advice and promotional activities
- Encourage and support businesses to develop **active travel plans**
- Provide on-line Herefordshire **car sharing** scheme, [www.twoshare.co.uk](http://www.twoshare.co.uk) to **reduce solo car use**
- Employ means to restrain **traffic growth**, encourage the use of public transport and reduce congestion
- **Rebuild** the crematorium to meet modern standards
- Increase and support the **promotion of sustainability** in schools, including travel plans

## **Sustainable supplies**

*We will use local suppliers where possible to encourage economic growth within the county, reduce food miles and associated emissions. Where supplies are brought in from abroad we will support and encourage 'Fairtrade'. We will support and encourage resource efficiency, including water and energy, in our own behaviours and across the community.*

### **How? We do/will**

- Promote **Farmers' Markets** selling local produce
- Support the county in it's **Fairtrade status**
- Use **local suppliers** where possible
- Promote Herefordshire's **Food Festival**
- Encourage **local recruitment**
- Use **recycled materials** in highway asset repair/improvements
- Use **recycled paper** as standard in our printers and photocopiers

## **Health & well-being**

*We aim to be the employer of choice. The services we deliver focus on improving the quality of life for people living, working and visiting the county.*

### **How? We do/will**

- Tackle **rogue traders** to prevent poor workmanship & protect the elderly & vulnerable
- Promote **adventure and eco tourism** to build on the county's natural assets
- Improve **condition of principal roads** to help prevent **accidents**
- Implement an **Affordable Warmth strategy** to reduce the incidence of fuel poverty in Herefordshire.