



Reviewed Environmental Statement

This policy was adopted by Folkestone Town Council at its meeting held on: 14 November 2024 – Minute 2129.

Folkestone Town Council recognises that it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal and regulatory requirements. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and continually improving our environmental performance as an integral part of our business strategy and operating methods, with regular review points. We will encourage customers, suppliers and other stakeholders to do the same.

Aims

We endeavour to:

- Comply with and exceed all relevant regulatory requirements.
- Continually improve and monitor environmental performance.
- Continually improve and reduce environmental impacts.
- Incorporate environmental factors into business decisions.
- Increase employee awareness and training.

Equipment/Materials

- We will minimise the use of paper.
- We will reduce postage and packaging as much as possible.
- We will seek to buy recycled and recyclable paper products.
- We will reuse and recycle all paper where possible.
- We will reduce our reliance on single use plastics

Energy and Water

- We will seek to reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible.
- Lights and electrical equipment will be automated where possible, so they are switched off when not in use.
- Heating will be adjusted with energy consumption in mind.
- The energy consumption and efficiency of new products will be considered when purchasing.

Office Supplies

- We will evaluate if the need can be met in another way.
- We will evaluate if hiring or sharing is an option before purchasing equipment.

- We will evaluate the environmental impact of any new products.
- We will seek to buy more environmentally friendly and efficient products.
- We will reuse and recycle wherever possible.

Transportation

- We will reduce the need to travel, restricting to necessity trips only.
- We will promote the use of travel alternatives such as e-mail, online training and online meetings.
- We will accommodate the needs of those using public transport or bicycles.
- We will use 'green' vehicles whenever possible and maintain them rigorously.

Maintenance and Cleaning

- Cleaning materials will be as environmentally friendly as possible.
- Materials used in the Town Hall will be as environmentally friendly as possible.
- We will only use licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste.

Monitoring and Improvement

- We will comply with and exceed all relevant regulatory requirements.
- We will continually improve and monitor environmental performance.
- We will continually improve and reduce environmental impacts.
- We will incorporate environmental factors into business decisions.
- We will increase employee awareness through training.

Culture

- We will review this statement in consultation with staff and other stakeholders where necessary, for greater commitment and improved performance.
- We will work with suppliers, contractors and sub-contractors to improve their environmental performance.
- We will include sustainability in all our planning for new projects from the outset.
- We will partner with other organisations to share services where feasible, so we can reduce costs and waste.
- We will use local labour and materials where available to reduce CO2 and help the community.