

Environment Policy - Llangattock Community Council

RESPONSIBILITY: Full Council

DATE ADOPTED: July 2021

TARGETS TO BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY – NEXT DATE: March 2024

Introduction

Llangattock Community Council (LCC) recognises that it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal regulatory requirements. It is committed to reducing its environmental impact and continually improving its environmental performance. It will encourage the residents and stakeholders in the ward to do the same.

In April 2021 LCC declared a Climate Emergency to:

- Join with other councils across Wales in declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency.
- Support the implementation of "Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales" (March 2019) to make Powys County Council (PCC) a net zero carbon local authority by 2030.
- Monitor the PCC Cross-party working group and the Powys-wide multi-stakeholder group, through attendance of PACE meetings and other outside bodies as well as liaison with the Llangattock County Councillor.
- Support PCC in its aim of pressuring Welsh Government and UK Government to provide the necessary support and resources to enable effective carbon reductions and transition to a green Powys economy.
- Commit to reducing the decline in biodiversity in its area and realise the importance of biodiversity conservation and enhancement for our community's health and wellbeing.
- Work towards ensuring that sustainability is embedded in all that the Council undertakes and strengthen the village's resilience with respect to the impacts of anticipated climate changes and the risks this poses.

Background/principles

- LCC is committed to doing all, in and around Llangattock, within its powers and resources to protect and enhance the well-being of local people and all that comprises the natural and built world (our environment).
- It is also committed to the principle of sustainability. This means avoiding unnecessary energy use or waste and restricting its use of resources to avoid contributing to climate change or other ongoing damage to ourselves or our environment.
- Accordingly, it will always seek maximum sustainability in all of its dealings affecting the environment.

Aims of Policy

- Incorporate environmental factors into council decision making.

- To carry out its work in an effective way that continually improves and reduces environmental impacts, and to continually improve and monitor environmental performance.
- To promote the importance and values of a diverse environment and its contribution to the quality of life for the community of Llangattock.
- Comply with all and exceed, where possible, all regulatory requirements.
- To promote a sense of community and support residents and visitors in their enjoyment of our local environment.

Sustainable procurement

1. It will seek to minimise environmental damage caused through the transportation of goods by sourcing materials and services locally wherever practicable.
2. Any timber or similar products used by the Community Council should be from FSC certified sources or made from alternative recycled materials.
3. Contracts requiring formal tender responses should include sustainability criteria as part of the assessment matrix.
4. Office supplies and equipment should focus on achieving sustainability and energy efficiency, reusing and recycling wherever possible.
5. Cleaning products: We will choose to use products that do not include bleach or oil-based ingredients. Such as Bio-D which use ethically sourced natural ingredients and 100% recycled plastic in their containers. We can also use our local refill shop for these products. **Ongoing investigation due to COVID measures.**

Setting the example

1. LCC will inform and encourage all Councillors and staff to promote awareness and to lead by example in supporting environmentally friendly activities.
2. It will ensure all LCC decisions take into account environmental impact and wellbeing in line with the Future Generations Act and our LCC Five Year Vision.
3. LCC will share good practice and celebrate environmental activities and projects.
4. LCC will seek to protect and where possible enhance the quality of the natural environment of Llangattock and its open spaces, including, but not limited to, trees, woodland, parks, hedgerows, ponds and streams.
5. LCC will end the use of avoidable 'single use' plastics in and on LCC property and seek to influence others to do the same, in line with the latest Welsh Government legislation banning single-use plastics from Autumn 2023. LCC will promote and encourage recycling across the village.

Policy Targets for 2023/24

1. Seek to engage with and inform residents and visitors of the biodiverse habitats that exist and how they may use them sustainably and help to grow the existing sites.
2. LCC will manage its land and activities using environmentally friendly practices that promote biodiversity and enhance habitats and encourage users of LCC owned grounds and allotments to do the same.

3. Monitor and maintain in good health the trees on LCC Land, as per regular professional tree reports.
4. LCC will seek out training and development opportunities for councillors and staff, such that they can fulfil the objectives of this policy, particularly with regards to management of green spaces and sensitive habitats.
5. In all relevant communications promote awareness of, and information on environmental issues within the community. Develop the LCC website to provide greater information on environmental and biodiversity issues to promote good practice amongst residents.
6. Energy consumption and efficiency will be taken into account when purchasing new products.
7. LCC will promote and support the use of cycling, footpaths and public transport (Active Travel Plan).
8. It will utilise electronic communications wherever possible, to reduce travel and mileage.
9. Begin work to develop an action plan working alongside Brecon Beacons National Park Association (BBNPA) & Powys County Council (PCC), for environmental and wellbeing improvements as outlined in the new BBNPA Park Management Plan, utilising the Doughnut model.