



MERSEYSIDE WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

The Authority's vision is "To improve people's quality of life by ensuring that waste is sustainably managed to bring about the best combination of environmental, economic and social benefits".

This sustainability policy is prepared to ensure a strategic fit between the Authority's Corporate Plan, core activities, and objectives and the Government's Sustainable Development strategy, goals, principles and priorities. This policy statement will act as the over-arching driver to attain sustainability within the Authority and will be the catalyst that ensures that all current and future policies adopted by the Authority will be sustainable.

Sustainability is a corporate value. It ensures the intelligent use of all resources within an overarching framework in which economic, environmental and social factors are integrated and balanced. This means improving the quality of life both now and for generations to come.

The terms 'sustainability' and 'sustainable development' essentially address the same issue and for the purpose of this policy, we define sustainability as "the ability to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations."

We are committed to ensuring that the *principles* and *priorities* of sustainable development, set out in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, underpin our Corporate Plan.

Principles

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Using sound science responsibly
- Promoting good governance

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Priorities

- Sustainable consumption and production
- Climate change and energy
- Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
- Sustainable communities

We will meet our commitment to sustainability through the services we provide and in the way we operate as an organisation.

We will demonstrate this commitment by;

- Continuously improving our environmental, social and economic performance to maximise our positive effects and minimise our adverse impacts
- Complying with all relevant legislation and regulations
- Undertaking Sustainability Appraisals of our Corporate Plan, strategies, policies, services and activities to ensure that they do not have detrimental impacts on today's local and global environmental, economic and social well-being and that of future generations
- Developing our remit of corporate social responsibility
- Ensuring that we manage and monitor our environmental impacts responsibly
- Contributing to the sustainable community strategies and sustainable policies of constituent District Councils
- Setting a basket of performance indicators for sustainability to measure progress and inform stakeholders
- Encouraging partners to adopt sustainable practices
- Actively encouraging and monitoring responsible environmental, social and economic performances by suppliers of services and contracts to the Authority
- Raising awareness of and encouraging sustainable action amongst staff, Members, partners, the general public and other stakeholders
- Integrating equality of opportunity and respect for diversity into all aspects of the Authority's activities.
- Promoting and supporting local Biodiversity Action Plans
- Carrying out a biennial sustainability appraisal of this policy and subsequent action plan

We aim to lead by example in addressing our operational impacts on the community, the local economy and the environment by continuously improving our performance in the following areas of:

- Promoting waste prevention – reduce, reuse, recycle, responsibility
- Resource efficiency – energy, water, materials, supplies and suppliers, assets

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- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Car-use for business travel
- Other pollution prevention
- Waste disposal
- The need to purchase in the first place
- The Whole Life Costs of a product or service
- Sustainable products and services
- Supply chain management
- Facility design and build

We aim to promote sustainability throughout Merseyside along with our partners by;

- Working with residents, schools, colleges, businesses and other organisations to develop awareness of and action on sustainability from a waste management perspective
- Helping residents to adopt more sustainable lifestyles
- Influencing the Merseyside Waste Partnership to ensure that strategies, policies and decisions reflect the partnerships sustainability values
- Helping to improve the environmental, economic and social performance of Merseyside and Halton's businesses
- Encouraging the development of a sustainable local economy including the promotion and support of social enterprises, not-for-profit organisations, voluntary groups and individuals based on sustainable services and sustainable operations and technologies, which improve the well-being of Merseyside and the wider North West region.

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