



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

APPENDIX 1

Sustainability Policy

1. Introduction and Context

Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority understands the importance of waste prevention and the re-use and recycling of materials and products in achieving zero avoidable waste and net zero carbon by 2040. In line with our climate emergency Declaration in October 2019, we recognise that action on climate change should form a central part of our approach to embedding sustainability into our plans and service delivery.

The Authority will place sustainability at the core of decision making to ensure we reduce our climate warming impacts and improve the sustainable management of waste and material resources. This will be achieved by measuring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals, which will include actions to achieve zero avoidable waste, net zero carbon and in partnership with others, a sustainable region. The Authority will ensure that its wider policies and plans complement and support the aims of this sustainability policy. We will meet our commitment to sustainability through the services we provide, the way we operate as an organisation and how effectively and efficiently we work with partners and our stakeholders.

2. Commitments

2.1 People

- Align the Authority's plans, strategies, policies and delivery with the aims, objectives and targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and achievement of zero waste and net zero carbon 2040.
- Lead by example by continuously improving our sustainability performance.
- Develop a talented diverse and responsible workforce which provides equal opportunities.
- Engage in a behaviour change programme across the LCR to enable residents and communities to move up the waste hierarchy, encourage conscious consumerism and reduce waste
- Raise awareness and encourage adoption of zero waste and net zero carbon action amongst staff, members, partners, the public and other stakeholders.

- Raise LCR resident's awareness of the impact of climate change through education and campaigns.
- Embed social, economic, and environmental outcomes into our procurement practices, to achieve greater sustainability impact.
- Work with residents, schools, colleges, businesses, and other organisations to develop sustainability awareness and promote action from a waste management perspective.

2.2 Planet

- Understand, evaluate, prioritise, and report against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Comply with applicable legal requirements and other relevant requirements relating to the Authority's environmental aspects and sustainable waste policy.
- Ensure that potential partners and contractors have an environmental policy or can demonstrate their commitment to sustainability before procuring services.
- Promote and support local biodiversity and nature recovery action plans and efforts to sequesterate and store carbon on our managed sites.
- Work towards zero avoidable waste.
- Maximise resource efficiency, including energy, water, materials, infrastructure, and assets.
- Develop increased capacity for reuse.
- Switch the focus of Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) from disposal and recycling to reuse and repair.
- Reduce the impact of our actions on climate change by limiting emissions to air, land, and water.
- Maximise economic, environmental, and social value from our management of material and waste resources.

2.3 Economy

- Support the development of a sustainable, zero waste and low carbon region by promoting the benefits of circular economy growth.
- Move from a linear to a circular economy.
- Align our infrastructure and operations to deliver zero avoidable waste.
- Identify the need for new goods and services before initiating their procurement.
- Promote sustainable procurement awareness and initiatives amongst our stakeholders, including Members, staff, partners, and the local community.
- Achieve zero waste and net zero carbon whilst delivering best value and spending money wisely and transparently.
- Develop circular economy education tools for all ages.
- Work collaboratively with other stakeholders to maximise social value.
- Ensure that we set data driven targets which stretch performance and deliver continuous improvement.

Priorities

Our key priority is to reduce waste through the sustainable management of material resources and to deliver zero avoidable waste and net zero carbon by 2040. We will achieve this by supporting the SDGs, taking climate action and reducing residual waste through prevention, reuse, recycling, and behaviour change. Sustainability will be embedded throughout our plans, strategies, procurement, and delivery to maximise social value, grow the region's circular economy, and utilise our resources efficiently and effectively. Delivery of this policy will support the city region to achieve its vision of a zero waste, low carbon circular economy by 2040.