

Sutton Council's Environmental Policy



Sutton Council has adopted a set of policies which reflects its concern for the quality of the local environment and the need to conserve the finite resources of our planet. These policies also establish a proper balance between short-term economic and the longer term environmental needs of our community.

Sutton Council is committed to operating a management system called Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) throughout all Council Groups.

This means that the Council implements policies aimed at continuous improvement of environmental performance in all areas and complies with all relevant environmental requirements including the partnership Local Agenda 21 goals. These policies also ensure that all suppliers to the Council recognise and address environmental matters relating to their products and services.

The Council aims to prevent, or limit, environmental accidents where possible and contingency procedures are in place to minimise the effects of these if they do happen.

As part of EMAS, staff and councillors receive training on environmental issues to help foster a sense of responsibility for the environment at all levels. In this way, we can make a significant contribution to a sustainable, healthy and balanced environment.

Sutton Council has a responsibility and will...

- a) protect and enhance the open spaces, waters, trees and hedges under its control to maintain and enhance their biodiversity value.
- b) encourage a positive attitude to the local environment from individual residents, groups and organisations and encourage the expansion of environmental education;
- c) act and campaign against pollution, e.g. of air, water and land
- d) act and campaign against anti-social levels of noise;
- e) aim to reduce and discourage litter as part of "the Greener, Cleaner Borough" ethos;
- f) discourage waste and encourage the recycling of materials and use recycled materials wherever practicable;
- g) improve energy and water conservation in Council buildings and encourage this elsewhere;
- h) promote the development and implementation of renewable energy sources;
- i) encourage a responsible and informed attitude to the use of artificial fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides on Council-owned land and elsewhere, and aim to reduce the use of harmful fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides;
- j) aim to protect the public from the dangers incurred through the use, transport and storage of dangerous and toxic substances, e.g. asbestos and radioactive materials;
- k) encourage healthy eating and provide the widest circulation of information on the subject and discourage the use of unnecessary additives, particularly within the Council's services;
- l) encourage the use and improvement of public transport and provide improved facilities for disabled people, pedestrians and cyclists;
- m) consider favourably employment which enhances the Borough's environment;
- n) promote allotments and horticulture;
- o) where necessary, introduce new planning policies to support these aims;
- p) encourage community participation in this programme and work with other organisations committed to the same goals;
- q) monitor the rate at which green areas are diminishing in the Borough and endeavour to compensate for this;
- r) produce an annual report on the state of the environment so that the implementation of these policies can be monitored;
- s) seek to minimise the impact on the environment in terms of materials used by the Council in all its operations