



Environmental Policy

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PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

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1 Introduction

1.1 Policy Statement

Avon Fire & Rescue Service recognises its responsibility to protect the environment, reduce our environmental impacts and respond to the effects of climate change. The Service's [Environmental Strategy 2020-2030](#) details our commitment and this policy provides the framework for our environmental targets and action plans.

1.2 Scope

This policy applies to:

- All Service staff, suppliers, contractors and Avon Fire Authority (AFA) members
- All Service operational activities including fire-fighting, prevention, protection and rescue services; other activities and sites including control, training, workshops, offices and fire stations

2 Policy Principles

2.1 Our key commitments

- To be Net Zero Carbon by 2030
- To demonstrate environmental leadership in the Fire & Rescue sector

2.2 Our principles

2.2.1 Governance & management

- Maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) focused on continually improving our environmental performance.
- Fulfil all our environmental compliance obligations.
- Integrate environmental risks and opportunities into all business decision making, including climate adaptation and mitigation.
- Provide leadership support for environmental management, championed by the Director of Corporate Services.
- Ensure scrutiny and review by the AFA via the Policy & Resources Committee

2.2.2 Impacts & operations

- Protect the environment and prevent pollution at our sites and from our emergency response operations.
- Embed environmental protection best practice in operational response and training, in line with National Operational Guidance.

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- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our sites, fleet transport and supply chain.
- Support sustainable travel options for staff and business travel.
- Use energy efficiently, supplied from renewable sources.
- Use water efficiently across our estate, in training and during incident response.
- Follow the waste hierarchy and aim to eliminate waste to landfill.
- Prioritise the use of materials and goods that are sustainably produced, renewable, durable and re-useable.
- Prioritise the well-being of our staff in the way our estate is managed.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity on our sites, in training and at incident response.

2.2.3 Stakeholders & communications

- Embed social value and sustainability into the procurement and contract management of all goods, works and services
- Involve staff to improve the Service's environmental performance through training, project initiatives and behaviour change.
- Work with partners, stakeholders and other agencies to improve environmental protection and climate resilience in the Service and the communities we serve.
- Regularly report on our environmental performance to our staff, leadership, AFA and the wider community.

3 Responsibilities

3.1 Senior Leadership

The successful implementation and maintenance of the Environmental Policy is the responsibility of the Service Leadership Team, with the EMS Management Review Committee being accountable for the EMS.

3.2 Environmental Team

The Environmental Team have day-to-day responsibility for developing and managing of the Service's environmental work, working closely with other departments on their areas of responsibility that impact on the environment.

3.3 AF&RS Staff

Every member of AF&RS staff has a responsibility to perform their duties in an environmentally conscious way and to actively support the Service's Environmental Strategy, Policy and objectives within the remit of their role.


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