

# Corby Borough Council Environmental Policy



Taking action to prevent the effects of climate change is a key theme in Corby's Borough Council's *Corporate Service Plan*. As a Council our challenge is to deliver sustainable growth while balancing economic, social and environmental concerns.

In Corby, our mission is "Working together for the future to improve the quality of life for the people in the Borough" and this needs us to balance environmental, economic and social aspects, which is why our corporate plan contains themes relating to all three areas.

Whilst climate change is the greatest environmental threat we face and an urgent priority, we also need to use natural resources wisely; reduce, reuse and recycle our waste; protect plants and wildlife; and reduce pollution. Our work on environmental sustainability will help us to achieve broader benefits - such as improving health, well-being and social cohesion – whilst at the same time fulfil Corby's plan to double the population by 2030 on a sustainable basis with a complementary increase in jobs, prosperity and the quality of local public services.

## ***Our approach to delivery***

We will:

- Become a signatory of the Climate Local initiative and provide leadership by leading by example in continually reducing the environmental impacts from our own estate and operations, as well as positively engaging with the community. We will work to help make it easier for businesses, other institutions and residents to do their bit.
- prioritise activities that deliver the most cost-effective carbon emission reductions possible and that capture the public imagination and stimulate behavioural change.
- work collaboratively with partners such as Electric Corby CIC, other local strategic partners and regional partners - to develop large-scale solutions that generate significant economies of scale.
- encourage all individuals and organisations, where practicable to implement similar policies and practices
- capture the economic benefits for Corby that sustainable growth and climate change mitigation can bring and leverage them to further improve Corby's environment .

## ***Our improvement priorities***

1. Reduce the borough's contribution to climate change in line with the Climate Change Act (2008) national target to cut the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 (baseline of 1990), with intermediate targets of 34% by 2020 and 50% by 2027.
2. Improve the use of resources and waste management by encouraging waste minimisation, re-use, recycling and composting. We aim to, in line with the EU Waste Framework Directive (2008), with the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership recycle 50% of waste from households by 2020.
3. Encourage lower carbon transport alternatives such as the use of more efficient, less polluting vehicles (eg provision of EV charging infrastructure) and promote walking, cycling, and public transport.
4. Protect and enhance Corby's local biodiversity and open spaces, ensuring they are appealing and accessible for all.
5. Reduce the negative environmental impacts of all new major developments and growth programmes and leverage that new development to test new sustainable ways of living, working and travelling.
6. Reduce harmful pollutants in the air, land and water by complying with, and enforcing, environmental legislation.

We will monitor and report on our performance and review this policy annually.