



Seaton Town Council Constitution

Chapter 23 Environment Policy

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SEATON TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Seaton Town Council (“the Council”) is committed to the creation of a sustainable community but recognises that some of its activities will have a negative impact on the environment.

The aim of this policy is to establish broad objectives and ensure that the Council is continually striving to reduce its impact on the environment and tackle climate change whilst delivering services for the community.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy applies to all land and properties that the Council owns and land and properties that the Council manages or is responsible for. The Council supports those who manage properties on its behalf to do so in an environmentally responsible manner.

The Council will act as a voice for the local environment and take up concerns with agencies carrying the statutory powers to tackle problems.

The Council will not permit the release of balloons or sky lanterns as part of its activities or on land it controls.

The following sets out what the Council will do in order to minimise its impact on the environment.

ENERGY AND WATER MANAGEMENT

The Council will make every effort to adopt energy saving measures within its premises by minimising electricity consumption and maximising the efficiency of heating systems, minimising freshwater usage and minimising all forms of pollution.

In the longer term, the Council will endeavour to investigate the feasibility of sustainable energy power for its premises.

The Council will increase awareness of energy efficiency amongst employees and encourage energy-conserving behaviour, such as switching off lights that aren't needed and switching off equipment rather than using standby.

The Council will also implement water saving measures on its allotments, by encouraging tenants to reduce their water usage through the use of water butts.

RECYCLING AND RESOURCES

The Council will minimise its waste production wherever possible, by reducing, repairing and reusing resources.

The Council will minimise the use of single use plastics, ensure recyclable materials are recycled, use recycled paper products where feasible, minimise printing and the generation of wastepaper and compost organic waste.

BIODIVERSITY AND GREEN SPACES

The Council will support the protection and enhancement of Seaton's natural environment and open spaces, support the conservation of trees, hedgerows, ponds and streams, help to manage green spaces to promote and protect biodiversity, minimise the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides and ensure its planting schemes are predominantly pollinator friendly perennial flowers.

The Council's Planning Committee will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when commenting on planning applications in Seaton. It is recognised, however, that these considerations must be balanced against other material planning considerations and each application will be considered on its individual merits.

FOSSIL FUELS

The Council will minimise the use of fossil fuels at events, minimise unnecessary car journeys on council business, promote and support the use of public transport, cycling and walking and procure electric tools for grounds maintenance where it is viable to do so.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Whilst the Council must always be mindful of best value, it will procure goods and services locally where feasible and where requirements for quality are met.

Sourcing materials locally, where feasible, will reduce carbon emissions resulting from transporting produce. The Council will promote local produce and products within the community as appropriate, which will have the additional positive effect of supporting the local economy.

AWARENESS, LOBBYING AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Council will promote awareness of environmental issues within the wider community and will support projects which contribute towards meeting these environmental objectives.

The Council will continue to engage in partnership working with local community, organisations and other tiers of local government on conservation projects. The Council will work closely with the Environment Agency, East Devon District Council, Devon County Council and Marine Authorities with regard to sea and flood defences.