



ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

AUGUST 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Alcester Town Council (the Council) declared a climate emergency in June 2022.
- 1.2 The Council adopted the latest version of its Local Climate Nature Action Plan in October 2025.
- 1.3 The Council recognises that a healthy environment is fundamental to the prosperity and wellbeing of our local community, and that its actions feed into wider efforts to address the climate and ecological emergency.
- 1.4 The Council acknowledges that whilst our activities may have adverse effects on the environment, we can take steps to minimise those impacts, and in many cases make a positive contribution by protecting and enhancing the local environment.
- 1.5 The Council considers that the environment is important and will comply with and, where possible, exceed all environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice, as applicable.
- 1.6 The Council will encourage good practice across Alcester by acting as a role model for other businesses and organisations.

2. AIMS OF POLICY

The aims of the Alcester Town Council Environmental Policy are:

- 2.1 To protect and enhance the health of the environment and ecology across areas and assets where Alcester Town Council has responsibility, for the benefit of the local community.
- 2.2 To promote the importance and value of a healthy environment, and to support local people in their involvement with and enjoyment of it.
- 2.3 To carry out our work in an efficient way that minimises or eliminates its adverse impact on our environment, and instead makes a positive contribution.

3. POLICY AREAS

3.1 CLIMATE CHANGE

The Town Council is committed to being carbon neutral and will set out plans for actions to reach this goal which include:

- Undertaking an audit of current Town Council emissions.
- Encouraging staff, Councillors and hirers to switch off electrical equipment and unnecessary lights when not in use.
- Encouraging staff, Councillors and hirers to close windows and external doors when heating is on.
- Replacing non-LED bulbs with LED bulbs in Council premises.
- Introducing phased replacement of electrical equipment used on Council premises with products of maximum energy efficiency rating.
- Maintaining an electric van.
- Retrofitting buildings with energy saving measures where possible, (glazing, roof insulation).
- Installing solar panels and battery storage on Council premises where possible.
- Introducing natural climate change solutions, as identified as valid and appropriate (such as tree planting and rewilding) on Council assets.
- Encouraging nature-based solutions that improve resilience to climate change, such as habitat restoration, green infrastructure, and natural flood management.

3.2 NATURE & WILDLIFE

The Town Council is committed to increasing opportunities for nature to thrive on the assets it owns or manages. This will be achieved by:

- Protecting and enhancing the quality and extent of the natural environment in Alcester.
- Supporting wherever possible, the conservation of trees, hedgerows and rivers.
- Managing Council assets in a manner which supports the creation of wildlife corridors and protects and increases biodiversity wherever possible.
- Providing accessible events for residents to encourage them to care for nature and wildlife.
- Regularly reviewing the Local Climate Nature Action Plan.
- Avoiding the use of pesticides, herbicides and peat-based products on Council land and in Council operations.

3.3 SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

The Town Council will:

- Encourage Councillors and staff to car-share, where possible, when a car journey must be made on Council business.
- Promote and support the use of cycling, public footpaths and public transport.

3.4 WATER MANAGEMENT

The Town Council is committed to responsible water management and conservation throughout its operations, which include:

- Encouraging staff, Councillors and hirers to use water efficiently on Council premises.
- Promoting the use of water butts on allotment sites.

3.5 WASTE & RECYCLING

The Town Council will wherever possible:

- Apply the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle and recover before disposal, minimising the amount sent to landfill.
- Ensure waste is sorted, stored and disposed of appropriately.
- Minimise use of single-use plastics on Council premises and events.
- Promote and encourage recycling across the Town.
- Use recyclable, compostable and/or recycled products on Council premises.
- Support community initiatives such as Alcester Repair Café and the Alcester Community Shed.
- Minimise the amount of printing and minimise the amount of waste paper.
- Utilise electronic communications.

3.6 PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT

The Town Council will:

- Consider climate change issues when responding to planning applications.
- Maintain an up to date Neighbourhood Development Plan including policies to protect the environment.

3.7 FLOODING

The Town Council will:

- Provide information to residents to enable them to protect their properties from

flooding.

- Operate a Flood Watchers Scheme.
- Work with statutory authorities to maintain flood defences in Alcester.
- Respond to consultations about flooding.
- Work with partners upstream to improve flooding.

3.8 SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

The Town Council will:

- Source materials and services locally so long as the requirements for value for money, environmental and social factors and quality are met.
- Ensure that timber, or similar products, used by the Council will be from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified sources.
- Ensure that, wherever possible, consumables used on Council premises (such as cleaning products and inks) are eco-friendly.
- Consider the environmental and ethical impacts of purchasing decisions, including when procuring goods and services and when making decisions or developing Council services, projects or activities.

3.9 AWARENESS & PARTNERSHIPS

The Town Council will:

- Regularly communicate the Council's activity in relation to the environment on a variety of platforms.
- Promote awareness of, and information about, environmental issues within the community.
- Support and act as a voice for local environmental concerns within the community.
- Work with partners such as Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council (and their successors) on climate change initiatives.
- Respond to climate change consultations from statutory organisations.
- Encourage and support community involvement in climate and environmental projects, including working with volunteers and local schools to promote environmental awareness and action.
- Ensure that all individuals involved in the organisation (including contractors) are aware of their responsibilities in implementing this environmental policy by providing training and/or guidance around our best practice requirements

4. REVIEW

This policy and its application will be subject to regular review to ensure that it continues to reflect the aims and objectives of Alcester Town Council and promotes continuous environmental improvement throughout the Council's operations.

This policy was adopted by Full Council on 4th August 2026.

Review due August 2028.