

Oldham Council Environmental Policy



At Oldham Council we know that to build a healthy and prosperous Oldham we need a healthy environment. The council is therefore committed to identifying and tackling the environmental impacts of operations and services, and influencing others to do the same, prioritising areas where we can make the most impact. This is about more than one-off actions; it's about ensuring we have an environment that allows us, our children and our grandchildren to prosper.

We have already made a good start, implementing a wide range of waste, energy and business travel improvements. As a cooperative council, we are also making stronger links to other strategies such as the borough's Oldham Plan, the council's Corporate Plan and Oldham's Climate Change Strategy. An Environmental Management System has been adopted to make sure environmental considerations are consistently put at the heart of how we operate.

This policy covers council premises managed and occupied by council employees, and cuts across all services. This includes, for example, waste and parks management, highways, children's social care, libraries and public health protection, although schools are not currently covered by this policy. The council will continually improve environmental performance and deliver value for public money across these areas by:

- Through our cooperative approach, taking the lead whilst encouraging and influencing others to do their bit so that the whole community can realise the benefits of excellent environmental stewardship.
- Complying with, and where possible exceeding, the standards set by environmental legislation, permits, codes of practice, audited awards, and voluntary agreements.
- Integrating environmental considerations as a key aspect of the process of policy and strategy development.
- To maximise waste management performance through the continued implementation of viable waste reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives. Preventing pollution at source through training, measurement and good management.
- Reducing carbon emissions from buildings and transport in line with local, regional and national targets, saving energy, supporting community renewable energy projects, and minimising climate change impacts.
- Optimising water use and cutting wastewater discharges through monitoring and reduction initiatives.
- Implementing our social value procurement policy – key areas include fleet, maintenance, refurbishment and construction, paper and consumables, and contracted services.
- Identifying measures to promote biodiversity opportunities within the council and the borough through partnership working between public, private and third sectors.
- Working co-operatively with our volunteer Eco Champions, employees, key partners and the community, to inform and enhance what we do.
- Establishing objectives and targets, tracking progress and reporting performance.

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Sean Fielding,
Leader

Handwritten signature of Arooj Shah in black ink.

Arooj Shah,
Deputy Leader

Handwritten signature of Carolyn Wilkins in black ink.

Carolyn Wilkins,
Chief Executive