

HIGHWAYS AND ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Gwynedd Council's Highways Department provides a wide range of essential services. These include the activities of Highway Maintenance, Council Fleet Management and Maintenance, Street Cleaning, Street Lighting, Street Enforcement Services, Clean and Tidy Communities Service, Cemeteries Management and Maintenance, Crematorium Management and Public Lands Maintenance.

We recognize that the activities of the Highways Department directly affect the environment, and there is the potential for this, at times to be harmful. Our aim is to reduce or remove the negative effects on the environment and increase positive effects and influences, continuing to ensure a consistent service and maintaining appropriate standards.

We are committed to continuous improvement in our environmental performance. To achieve this, the Department has been approved and runs a successful ISO 14001:2015 management system and we intend to:

- Manage and monitor the significant environmental aspects by assessing risk and carrying out inspections;
- Comply with relevant environmental legislation;
- Work towards reducing the risk of damage to the environment;
- Commit to projects that look at greener and more efficient vehicles for the workforce, as well as encouraging and training employees to drive efficiently at work.
- Reducing waste arising from the department's work ensuring compliance with the waste hierarchy - prevention, re-use, recycling, other recovery, disposal;
- Commit to working towards environmental targets from the Welsh Government e.g. Net Carbon 2050 and a 63% reduction in Carbon use by 2030.
- Raise awareness and change staff culture and behavior towards saving energy.
- Working together with the special energy saving service that is in the council to try to reduce our use of energy in our offices and give priority to reducing our carbon footprint.
- Work towards environmental targets that have been set by the department.
- Commit to arrangements that protect biodiversity.
- Promoting cost-effective travel methods that want to reduce their impact on the environment;
- Giving priority to environmental issues in the Department's current policies.
- Ensure within the purchasing procedure that clients and also any contractors, sub-contractors or suppliers commissioned by the Department have suitable environmental management and policies, practices and sustainable developing systems in place;
- Support the development of our staff by ensuring that they receive training so that they can contribute to the realization of our environmental system;
- Implement, maintain and maintain the environmental management system that meets the ISO 14001:2015 standard.

Signed:



Steffan Jones
Head of Highways and Engineering Department

Signed:



Berwyn Parry Jones
Cabinet member for Highways and Engineering Department