

# Sancreed Parish Council

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

February 2022

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## INTRODUCTION

1.1 Sancreed Parish Council understands the effects of climate change are potentially damaging to the local community and commits to minimising its own impact by undertaking measures that will reduce its carbon footprint. The council will make a positive contribution to mitigate climate change by considering the environmental impact of all decisions, with the aim of achieving a net gain in benefit to the parish of Sancreed.

1.2 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.

1.3 The Council recognises that making changes in how we function may impact some communities more than others, and will strive to ensure that choices made are equitable and do not disproportionately affect communities.

1.4 The Council will be guided by the precautionary principle i.e; that it will endeavour to only act where there is clear evidence that an action will do no harm.

## 2. AIMS OF POLICY

2.1 To protect and enhance the health of the environment and ecology across areas and assets where Sancreed Parish 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.

2.4 To promote the development of a Circular Economy, including the consideration of the needs of the vulnerable people within our community.

## 3. POLICY AREAS

### i. CLIMATE CHANGE

- Undertake to consider and reduce staff and councillor's own carbon emissions.
- Encourage staff and councillors to use 100% green energy suppliers and to minimise the use of electric heaters and appliances.
- Introduce natural climate change solutions, as identified as valid and appropriate. These might be tree planting, naturalising environments on Council assets

Support projects in the parish that improve the health of the environment including electric car charge points.

ii. NATURE & WILDLIFE

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

- Protecting and enhancing the quality and extent of the natural environment in Sancreed
- Supporting wherever possible, the conservation of trees, hedgerows, ponds and streams
- Managing Council assets (including public rights of way, play areas, playing fields, and verges) in a manner that protects and increases biodiversity wherever possible
- Introducing environmental growth opportunities and activities, as appropriate, on Council assets
- Banning the release of balloon/sky lantern from Council land and events

iii. PESTICIDE USE

The Parish Council will minimise the use of pesticides where possible.

iv. SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

The Parish Council will wherever possible:

- Encourage members and officers 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
- Promote and support the use of car share schemes in our own and neighbouring council areas, for use by residents of Sancreed.

v. WATER MANAGEMENT

Sancreed Parish Council is committed to responsible water management and conservation throughout its operations.

vi. WASTE & RECYCLING

Sancreed Parish Council will wherever possible:

- Promote and encourage recycling across the Parish
- Use recyclable, compostable and/or recycled products
- Actively support community initiatives that will benefit the Parish.
- Minimise the amount of printing and minimise the amount of waste paper
- Utilise electronic communications; encourage Councillors to receive communications and Agenda documentation electronically

- Minimise pollution and prevent where possible (including light, noise, solids, liquids and chemicals)
  - Use composting facilities at relevant operated amenities including parks
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vii. PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT

The Parish Council will:

- Consider if planning applications show a biodiversity net gain over time.

viii. RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

The Parish 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 procurement of goods and services are wherever possible, weighted appropriately to encourage local suppliers thereby promoting the Circular Economy
- Consider the provenance of materials and services purchased in relation to environmental and social factors including; ethical use of labour, embedded carbon, location of manufacture, materials used, regularity of replacement, potential to acquire materials second hand.
- Ensure that , wherever possible, timber, or similar products, used by the Council will be from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified sources

ix. AWARENESS, LOBBYING & PARTNERSHIPS

The Parish Council will:

- Promote awareness of, and information about, environmental issues within the community
- Support and act as a voice for local environmental concerns within the community
- 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
- Work with partners, where appropriate, to increase environmental growth within the Parish
- Lobby Cornwall Council and our local MP, where appropriate, to promote and enable best environmental practice locally and across the Duchy of Cornwall
- Lobby Cornwall Council and our local MP, where appropriate, to promote and enable the development of a circular economy

x. ENERGY USE

The Parish Council will:

- Promote use of renewable energy in the Parish and Community Network Area

xi. CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The Parish Council will:

- Undertake an audit of the materials and services used by the Council
- Develop policies and promote activities that encourage the development of a Circular Economy in the Parish
- Promote and encourage the use of local suppliers in procurement policies
- Develop partnerships that facilitate the involvement of vulnerable communities in participation, education and work – thereby contributing to the skill set within the community
- Ethical investment – ensure that investments consider long term local and global environmental and social impacts in a prudent manner

xii. MONITORING and EVALUATION

- Sancreed Parish Council will develop an evaluation and monitoring framework, which will include a process for reporting on progress towards actions outlined above on a regular (annual) basis.

4. REVIEW

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

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