



## South Tipperary County Council

# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

South Tipperary County Council plays a vital role in providing key services to a population of 83,221. The functions and services of the Council touch every citizen of the county in many ways, from the quality of the environment in which we live to our social and economic infrastructure. These services include housing and social development, road, transportation and water services, development incentives and controls, environmental protection, recreation and amenity and corporate affairs and cultural development.

South Tipperary County Council acknowledges and recognises that its operations have an impact on the global and local environment. We are committed to the prevention of pollution and to managing and continually improving our environmental performance by implementing a certified Environmental Management System, initially ISO 14001 and at a later stage EMAS (i.e. the EU standard, Eco Management & Audit Scheme), which provides a framework to evaluate, improve and report our environmental impacts.

The Environmental Policy highlights our aims and the principles to which we are working to ensure that we play our part in creating a better environment for generations to come.

**It is the policy within the Council's Physical Planning and Environment Directorates to fulfil the following:**

### Planning, Development, Conservation & Heritage

- PD1 Formulate and implement strategies and policies in a sustainable manner, i.e. linking the economic, social and environmental objectives of society in a balanced way
- PD2 Ensure environmental proofing of all proposed land use zoning designations
- PD3 Apply limited budget resources in the most environmentally effective manner
- PD4 Preserve and protect our natural and built heritage
- PD5 Place sustainability at the core of the development management process
- PD6 Enhance the built environment by eliminating derelict buildings

### Protection of Natural Resources

- NR1 Promote a catchment based approach to the management of our water resources to ensure sustainability
- NR2 Protect and maintain water quality by the identification and elimination of pollution caused by all sectors and by ensuring that licensing regulations are adhered to
- NR3 Encourage a pro-active approach to the elimination of eutrophication by implementing the measures put forward in the Phosphorus Measures Report
- NR4 Activate the Council's Pollution Incident Plan as required, to protect water quality, prevent fish kills and to protect biodiversity
- NR5 Ensure that the Council's monitoring programme is implemented in respect of all discharges with potential to impact on water quality and that all laboratory work is conducted to a standard, which will guarantee that data is generated to the specified accuracy and precision for the purpose of decision-making

### Public Services

- PS1 Strive to achieve a litter-free county
- PS2 Manage the recovery, recycling and disposal of waste arising so as to promote waste prevention and minimisation wherever practicable
- PS3 Ensure that maximum realistic recycling and reuse targets set down in the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East (JWMP), made in June 2006, are achieved and that the balance of material is treated and disposed of in accordance with the plan.

- PS4 Ensure that systems and facilities for the management of waste including collection systems, bring sites, civic amenity centres, transfer stations, materials recovery facilities, treatment systems and disposal systems are designed, operated and maintained to the highest standard
- PS5 Monitor drinking water quality to ensure its compliance with relevant legislation and respond promptly to quality complaints

### Regulation & Enforcement

- RE1 Comply with all relevant environmental legislation
- RE2 Apply the polluter pays principle to encourage good environmental practice
- RE3 Ensure that all licences and permits are issued and enforced in compliance with the highest environmental standard
- RE4 Encourage a high standard of environmental performance from ourselves, our suppliers and contractors
- RE5 Report on our regulatory functions, to appropriate bodies, as required

### Sustainable Practices within the Council

- SP1 Practise environmentally friendly purchasing
- SP2 Encourage sustainable use of stationery materials
- SP3 Adopt energy saving measures to encourage the sustainable use of utilities and liaise with the Tipperary Energy Agency.
- SP4 Achieve minimisation of emissions from Council-run and staff-run vehicles by ensuring that journeys are planned in a sustainable manner
- SP5 Ensure responsible and sustainable management of in-house waste

### Awareness Raising

- AR1 Encourage maximum public participation in development of environmental management
- AR2 Make information and advice on care for the environment readily available to the general public
- AR3 Inform the Health Service Executive, the Environmental Protection Agency and the general public of any incidents or emergencies in relation to public health or the environment
- AR4 Ensure that the environmental policy is communicated to all employees, suppliers and relevant contractors
- AR5 Educate, train and motivate staff to conduct their activities in an environmentally responsible manner

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This document is an official statement of South Tipperary County Council as of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2007

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THIS POLICY IS AVAILABLE ON THE COUNCIL WEBSITE AT [www.southtippcoco.ie](http://www.southtippcoco.ie)