

North Marston Parish Council — Environmental Policy

Vision

That North Marston is a place where an inclusive and active community life is valued alongside a vibrant economy within its outstanding landscape setting. The Parish Council will conduct its business by means which are transparent, sustainable, environmentally responsible, and represent best value for our residents.

Policy Statement

North Marston Parish Council is committed to continuous improvement in environmental performance, climate responsibility, and the prevention of pollution in order to provide best value for our council taxpayers.

We will actively plan, monitor, and implement sustainable initiatives aimed at reducing ecological impacts while promoting ongoing improvement.

Environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice will be regarded as setting the minimum standards of environmental performance. We will implement our policies through a framework of monitoring and controlling our impact and implementing initiatives for improvement.

We will conserve resources through efficient use and careful planning. We will invest in improved energy and water efficiency. We will minimise waste and recycle remaining materials wherever possible.

We will adopt a sustainable procurement policy and encourage our suppliers to operate in an environmentally appropriate manner, reducing the environmental impact of their products and transport. We aim to support local businesses and will allow them the opportunity to quote for work.

We will undertake an annual evaluation of our environmental performance and set goals for continual improvement.

Core Principles

North Marston Parish Council commits to:

- **Compliance:** Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations
- **Continuous improvement:** Regularly update and improve standards considering increased understanding and knowledge.
- **Resource efficiency:** Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible.
- **Waste Minimisation:** Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods.

- **Sustainability:** Investigate the use of sustainable energy sources.
- **Biodiversity and Nature Protection:** Respect and protect natural resources by practicing conservation and good management.
- **Sustainable Procurement:** Encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment and seek to meet internationally recognised standards, where relevant such as the FSC.
- **Environmental duty:** Encourage its members and parishioners to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times.
- **Carbon footprint reduction:** Ensuring the Parish Council's activities and procurement minimises the carbon footprint of the PC and the community

Environmental and Sustainability Intentions:

North Marston Parish Council recognises the importance of protecting and enhancing the local environment for the benefit of current and future generations. The Council already engages with environmental matters through its planning comments and community initiatives and will continue to seek opportunities to support and encourage sustainable practices where possible. This may include promoting community tree-planting and biodiversity projects, making environmentally informed observations on planning applications, and supporting actions that contribute to greener lifestyles within the parish. While recognising that resources and practical constraints may limit what can be achieved, the Council is committed to fostering awareness, collaboration, and positive steps towards a more sustainable and environmentally responsible community.

Date: October 2025

Next Review: May 2027