

## MID & WEST WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

### SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES / STANDING ORDERS

#### 5.40 – Environmental Policy

**US – Indicates Updated Section (US) - (for initial circulation / publishing)**

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#### **Document Information**

Security Classification	N/A
Document Owner	Head of Corporate Risk
Document Author	Sustainability & Environment Manager
Date of Issue	2012
Date of Implementation	2012
Version Number	05
Date of Last Review	5th December 2018
Date Last Amended	5th December 2018
Date of Next Review	5th December 2019
Approval Details	Director of Ops Support and Improvement
Equality Impact Assessment Reference	ERA - EM01



## **1.0 Introduction**

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service covers the unitary Authority areas of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Powys and Swansea. It is committed to protecting the environment. The Service has a responsibility to protect the community it serves and to nurture the natural environment of the region. This Environmental Policy sets out MWWFRS Vision and Objectives. It demonstrates the Services' commitment to managing the environmental impacts of its activities and improving its environmental performance.

By promoting this Policy throughout the organisation the Service aims to encourage environmentally sound activity and minimise wasteful and damaging practices.

## **2.0 Purpose**

This Policy describes Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Services' approach to environmental issues. The policy has four main purposes:

- It is a signal of intent to display the Services' commitment to minimise any negative impact from its activities, on the environment;
- It provides details of the commitments the Service has made to improve its environmental performance;
- It is intended as a reference point. It is intended that this document will be used to inform all of our day to day activities, and due account will be taken of this policy when policies are developed or reviewed.
- This policy is intended to support the Services Sustainability and Environmental Strategy.

## **3.0 Scope**

This policy covers all of the activity of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and the Trading arm of the Service, Rescue 365, and sets out a number of commitments which will help the Service and Rescue 365 to meet its corporate vision.

This policy does not prescribe the precise action to take; it is intended as guidance rather than instruction

## **4.0 Background**

To assist Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Rescue 365 CIC in realising its vision, the Service needs to be increasingly aware of the environmental impacts its activities have on the environment and work towards minimising any negative environmental impacts.

Most of the work carried out by the Service has some impact on the

environment. This includes all operational work, such as attending fires, road traffic collisions and pollution incidents, and dealing with the after effects of such incidents; the Service has other direct environmental impacts through its own use of resources.

The Service will need to work with other organisations to ensure that the best interests of the environment are taken into account.

Additionally, the Service wants to promote an awareness of environmental issues in non-operational areas such as Transport, Procurement, Training, and all its administrative functions. Each of these has a part to play in ensuring that the Service meets its environmental objectives and targets.

Rescue 365 CIC (Community Interest Company) is the trading arm of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MWWFRS). Created to deliver high quality Risk Management training and the provision of other specialist products and services, Rescue 365 is proud of the reputation it is building in its own right whilst recognising the heritage of the organisation from which it originated.

Rescue 365 is a small, lean entity that has modelled its management and training delivery practices on those employed by the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service in the pursuance of its activities. It trains its personnel in environmental matters and incorporates current best practice into all aspects of the delivery of its products and services.

For these reasons, this Environmental Policy – Statement of Intent has been created.

## **5.0 Statement of Intent**

### **Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service**

#### **Environmental Policy - Statement of Intent**

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service recognises that its operations and activities, impact on the environment. Through the conduct of its business, the Service is committed to reducing its use of natural resources and carbon footprint, preventing pollution and continually improving its environmental performance in a sustainable manner.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service confirms a commitment to promoting a sustainable environment to the communities it serves. In pursuit of its vision “to become a World Class Organisation” and in working towards a more sustainable future, the Service is committed to supporting its communities by means of its fire prevention awareness and education programmes and by minimising its own adverse environmental impacts by reducing pollution, minimising waste, increasing recycling and tackling the causes of climate change.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service is committed to making a valuable contribution to the protection of its environment by:

- Having a strategy to confirm the Services' commitment to protecting the environment;
- Ensuring our compliance obligations to all relevant UK, European and International legislative and regulatory requirements and agreements which relate to the Services' environmental aspects are met or exceeded;
- Reporting annually on performance, environmental objectives and targets to ensure continual improvement;
- Promoting the Services' Environmental Strategy, Policies and Procedures across the Service;
- Providing dedicated training to employees in their environmental responsibilities;
- Considering environmental issues in purchasing decisions and the planning and design of projects to make sustainable development the Services' 'Core Organising Principle';
- Adopting water reduction measures and enhancing the sustainable use of resources;
- Reducing energy consumption and incorporating long term strategies for energy efficiency into planning and development;
- Promoting the use of fuel efficient motor vehicles and adopting more sustainable modes of transport;
- Minimising any adverse impact on the environment of our Service Delivery at operational incidents;
- Minimising waste and pollution by developing and operating environmentally sound waste management procedures;
- Maintaining the grounds and buildings of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service in an environmentally sensitive way, having regard to the protection of local natural habitats and encouraging biodiversity;
- Working with our partners and other local and national agencies as appropriate, to promote environmental policies, promote 'Best Practice' and protect the environment.

This Statement confirms the Services' commitment to protect both our immediate and wider environment from its activities. Progress in developing and implementing environmental strategies will be reviewed and reported annually. This Statement and other related documents will be made available on our @Work and the external website and other locations as appropriate and will be subject to an annual review.

Signed  
C Davies



CFO

Signed  
R Rees-  
Evans  
Chair, Fire  
Authority.



Dated: 5th December 2018

## **8.0 Review of Policy**

This policy shall be reviewed following:

- i. receipt of new information;
- ii when introducing change to or new working procedures;
- iii introduction of new agreements;
- iv in any event after 12 months;
- v at any other time when the current procedure is deemed to be invalid.