

**REPORT TO THE FIRE AUTHORITY****DATE:** 24 September**REFERENCE:****SUBJECT: Introducing an Environmental Statement****SUMMARY:**

Environmental management is an integral part of good governance and is used widely in both the public and private sector to understand and manage impacts on the environment. Promoting environmental management is a key part of the Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Development Strategy and Modernising Government agenda. See Appendix 1 & 2.

In preparation for a 12 month programme of sustainable and environmental analysis it is important to begin with a statement outlining the services' and the Authority's commitment. "Sustainability & the Environment" has already been added to the meetings proforma to ensure Sustainability and the environment is considered in all business decisions. Also, MAWWF have arranged for "Sustainability " to be a subject at the All Wales Member seminar

OBJECTIVES		IMPLICATIONS	
Trusted & Respect		Operational Risk Management	
More than Emergencies	Yes	Community Risk Reduction	
Saving Lives, Protecting Communities		Training & Development	
Managing within Budget		Civil Contingencies	
Improving Efficiency	Yes	Finance & Procurement	Yes
Resources to Priorities		H.R.	
Alternative Resources	Yes	ICT	
Managing People		Corporate Services	Yes
Integrated Management Planning		Transport	Yes
Partnership Working		Health & Safety	Yes
Effective & Empowered People		Premises	Yes
Sustainability & the Environment	Yes	Welsh Language	
Governance		Legal	

**COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS:**

An Environmental statement demonstrates to the public and staff that senior management and the Fire Authority have made a commitment to addressing its impacts on the environment.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That members approve the environmental statement

**BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT:**

WLGA – “Sustainable Development Framework for Welsh Local Government” May 2007

WLGA – “Action Not Words” April 2006

One Wales – “A progressive agenda for the Government of Wales” June 2007

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## **Appendix1 - Implementing an Environmental Management System**

### **Why?**

Wales is unique and is leading the way – it is one of only 3 countries in the world to have a duty within its constitution (Government of Wales Act 1998) to consider sustainable development in all its actions. This is delivered mainly through the Welsh Assembly Government's SD scheme and action plan (2004-2007), which apply to all assembly functions including the funding of, and the guidance issued to local government.

### **What is it?**

Sustainability lies at the heart of Environmental management and it is an integral part of good governance and is used widely in both the public and private sector to understand and manage impacts on the environment. Promoting environmental management is a key part of the Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Development Strategy and Modernising Government agenda. The benefits:

- minimise environmental liabilities;
- maximise the efficient use of resources;
- reduce waste;
- demonstrate a good corporate image;
- build awareness of environmental concern among employees;
- gain a better understanding of the environmental impacts of business activities; and
- increase profit, improving environmental performance, through more efficient operations.

### **How?**

To ensure that MAWWF are proactively identifying efficiencies and receive recognition for work already being undertaken it is proposed that we work with Arena Network through a graduate placement scheme to implement an Environmental Management system and to attain Green Dragon status.

We want to be an organisation that is working towards, and leading others towards a more sustainable Wales. We want to demonstrate that we understand our impacts on both the global and local environment and that, in our actions, policies and practices we make decisions accordingly. We want to lead by example.

### **Work Already Undertaken**

- Working towards the Sustainable Procurement Assessment Framework
- Acquired grant funding from the WAG Public Sector Reuse & Recycle Equipment Fund
  - July 2006 - £1,496.91 – composters, corn starch bags, recycling bins, printer cartridge bins
  - December 2006 - £3,522.42 – battery recycling bins etc
- Commands – trade recycling
- Battery collection service from stations
- HQ recycling – cardboard, paper, aluminium cans, toner cartridges, glass, kitchen waste & plastic
- In 2006 the Headquarters building reduced its landfill by 50%

## **Plans for the next 12 months**

Undertaking a baseline review of MAWWF's environmental impact to identify current position against where we need to be in terms of energy efficiency and sustainability. Following the review an implementation plan will be devised and a presentation given to the Fire Authority on the way forward.

## Appendix 2 – Draft Environmental Statement

### Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service Environmental Statement

Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service recognises that, through its rescue and support activities, there is potential to cause impacts to the environment, particularly relating to the way it manages its properties and transport fleet.

Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service is committed to minimising the impacts of its operations on the environment, balancing the needs of the environment with operational obligations and available resources.

We:

- Expect management to provide visible leadership that promotes good environmental performance and to commit the appropriate resources to achieve our environmental goal
- Are committed to a programme of continual improvement in assessing our environmental performance, with particular focus on the consumption of energy, resources and generation of waste
- Are committed to the principle of prevention of pollution. We will assess our services to identify ways of reducing emissions and waste
- Are promoting vehicle energy efficiency and endeavour to reduce petroleum consumption through placing an emphasis on fuel efficient use, and effective driving and maintenance of fleet vehicles
- Will consider the environmental impacts of new building and engineering installations with a particular focus on whole life costing, energy efficiency and sustainable materials
- Will work with contractors and suppliers to ensure minimum environmental disruption
- Will adopt a Sustainable Procurement culture whereby “whole life” costing, energy efficiency and sustainable communities are considered when procuring goods and services
- Will continuously monitor progress against our environmental strategy, including the implementation of objectives and targets.
- We will ensure our environmental commitment is communicated widely both internally and externally through a variety of methods, newsletters, seminars, training etc
- Will publish an annual environmental performance review

Douglas Mackay  
Chief Fire Officer

Chair of the Fire Authority  
Councillor Collin Crowley