

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	07
Date of Last Review	28th January 2021
Date Last Amended	28 th January 2021
Date of Next Review	28 th January 2022
Approval Details	Director of Ops Support and Improvement
Equality Impact Assessment Reference	EIA – CR 5.40

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 Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Services Vision and Objectives. It demonstrates the Service's 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 activities and minimise wasteful and damaging practices.

2.0 Purpose

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

- It is a signal of intent to display the Service's 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 and will be used to inform all day to day activities. Due account will be taken of this Policy when policies are developed or reviewed.
- This Policy is intended to support the Service's 5-year Sustainability and Environmental Strategy.

3.0 Scope

This Policy covers all activities of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and sets out a number of commitments which will help the Service 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 in realising its vision, the Service needs to be increasingly aware of the effects its activities have on the environment and work towards minimising any negative impact.

The work carried out by the Service can have an impact on the environment. This

includes operational activities, including fires, road traffic collisions and pollution incidents. MAWWFRS must consider the environmental impact of these activities into account when managing the immediate Incident and the potential aftereffects. Through the course of its duties, MAWWFRS have other direct environmental considerations through its own use of resources, for example, Waste generated from workshop facilities, Waste sent to landfill and the use of energy to power our facilities.

The Service will need to work with other organisations to ensure that the best interests of the environment are considered, as well as working towards enhancing and protecting biodiversity within MAWWFRS service area, as well as on land that we own.

Additionally, MAWWFRS will 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.

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 can 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 reducing our impact on biodiversity in line with the Section 6 Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and making a valuable contribution to the protection and enhancement of its environment by:

- Having a strategy to confirm the Service’s commitment to protecting the environment;
- Ensuring our compliance to all relevant legislation is met or exceeded, including regulatory requirements and agreements which relate to the Service’s environmental measures;
- Reporting annually on performance, environmental objectives and targets to

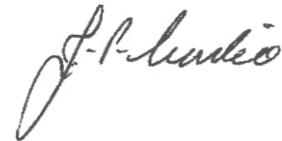
- ensure continual improvement;
- Promoting the Service’s Environmental Strategy, Policies and Procedures across the Service;
 - Providing dedicated training to employees in their environmental responsibilities;
 - Considering environmental issues in purchasing decisions and the planning and design of projects to make sustainable development the Service’s ‘Core Organising Principle’;
 - Adopting water reduction measures and enhancing the sustainable use of resources;
 - Reducing energy consumption and encouraging green initiatives while incorporating long term strategies for energy efficiency into planning and development;
 - Promoting the use of fuel-efficient motor vehicles and expanding our fleet of Zero Emission /Ultra Low Emission Vehicles;
 - Expanding our electric charging infrastructure on Service locations and through local collaborations;
 - 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 enhancing and encouraging biodiversity;
 - Working with our partners and other local and national agencies, as appropriate, to promote environmental policies, deliver ‘Best Practice’ and protect the environment.

This Statement confirms the Service’s 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 MAWWFRS’ intranet site, MAWWFRS’ external website and made available to all as appropriate. This Policy will be subject to an annual review, ensuring it maintains relevance through continually evolving Environmental legislation.

Signed
C Davies
CFO



Signed
J Curtice
Chair, Fire Authority.



Dated: 28th Jan 2021

28th Jan 2021

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.