



**NORTH YORKSHIRE  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

# **Environmental Strategy**

## **2015/16 – 2020/21**

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# North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

## ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY 2015/16– 2020/21

The Climate Change Act 2008 sets out a statutory carbon reduction target of 80% (set against the 1990 baseline) for UK business and government by 2050.

The Service's commitment to managing our impact on the environment is outlined in the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and includes prevention work to reduce the number of incidents, many of which can have a damaging effect on the environment. In addition, through the procurement and use of products and services which have lower carbon footprints and comply with current legislation we can further reduce our negative impact on the environment.

Whilst there is no current requirement for the Service to set targets for reductions or monitor specific outputs, we have both a legal and moral duty to minimise our impact on climate change. Legislation in this respect is under regular review as the impact of climate change increases and over the coming five year period it is anticipated that targets and thresholds for carbon reduction will increase for organisations, creating a legislative need for action.

The key drivers for the management of environmental impact are therefore as follows:

- UK and EU Legislation relating to carbon reduction and climate change
- The imperative to provide efficient, effective and economic services across both operational and non-operational activity as set out in the Corporate Plan
- A continued requirement to reduce the number and impact of emergency incidents as set out in the Integrated Risk Management Plan which in turn reduces the negative effect on the environment

Our strategic priorities in relation to climate change and the environment set within the above context are therefore:

- Reduce our own resource consumption including energy, fossil fuels and water
- Increase recycling and reduce the non-recyclable waste we generate
- Reduce the amount of pollution caused by our activities
- Reduce the number of incidents across the service area which in turn will reduce the overall impact on the environment.
- Procure products and services which have a low carbon impact
- Further develop our own awareness and educate our staff and partners to help minimise our footprint and contribute to the government targets for reductions
- Continue to comply with, and where considered appropriate, exceed our legal requirements

We will deliver the above priorities via the following strategic mechanisms:

Work already underway

- Ensure we meet all legislative requirements in relation to environmental management
- Engage with suppliers and other third parties through effective end to end procurement of products which takes into account environmental impact at all stages from manufacture through to disposal
- Consider the use of renewable energy sources in buildings where appropriate and continue to appropriately invest in estates to ensure efficiency
- Undertake efficient travel and consider the use of alternative fuels
- Appropriately invest in modern vehicles which meet required standards for cleanliness and efficiency
- Consider the use of appropriate operational technology to minimise the impact of operational activity on the environment
- Continue to appropriately invest in Information and Communications Technology to reduce consumption of resources, working towards paperless workplaces
- Continue to reduce consumption and decrease waste to reduce impact and manage costs
- To collaborate with partners to effectively deliver environmental improvements. For example the [City of York Air Quality Action Plan](#)

The above mechanisms are already in place but will continue to be developed over the five year period from 2015/16 to 2020/21.

Work to be developed during the five years from 2015/16 to 2020/21

- Develop policies which promote and embed the culture of environmental protection in all the Service's activities
- Develop a plan to baseline, monitor and reduce resource usage
- Provide education to our staff to raise awareness of the need to minimise our impact as a service and to engage with them in delivering objectives
- Work with partners and other organisations to enhance our positive impact
- Actively seek out opportunities for funding to develop environmental initiatives and create opportunities to reduce our overall impact

The above mechanisms will be developed over the five year strategy period with an aim to have created a baseline position and targets for reductions to be delivered in the after 2020/21.

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