

# GREEN commitment

As the largest service provider and employer in the Borough and a massive user of goods and services the Council is in a unique position to improve Croydon's environment for this and future generations and also to have a positive impact on the regional, national and even global environment.

Croydon Council's Green Commitment is our new environmental policy which will be used to guide our actions.

*Everyone who lives or works in or visits Croydon has an impact on the local and global environment.*

Croydon Council's Green Commitment is that we will:

- pursue and encourage environmental sustainability - living and developing in ways which ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the earth's resources
- protect and improve the quality of our local surroundings
- meet and, where possible, improve upon the environmental standards set down by law
- continually strive to improve our environmental performance; and
- work in partnership with the public, Government, other agencies and the business community to promote environmental sustainability.

To do this, we will protect and improve specific elements of the environment affected by human activity:

## AIR

We will:

- take action to meet national air quality targets
- provide information about air pollution levels in Croydon and how they may affect you
- reduce our own emissions of air pollution, including greenhouse gases



## CONTAMINATED LAND

We will:

- reduce the risk to human health and the environment from contaminated land
- ensure that when contaminated land is developed it is suitable for its new use

## RESOURCES

We will:

- reduce our consumption of non-renewable resources and encourage their replacement with renewable resources
- try to meet our needs using local resources

## WATER

We will:

- test drinking water in Croydon and take action to ensure it is safe and adequate
- protect and improve the quality and setting of outdoor waters including ponds, streams and aquifers
- reduce the amount of water we use and encourage water economy in all Croydon's buildings

## WASTE

We will:

- maintain safe and economic services for recycling, composting, refuse collection, cleansing and waste disposal
- aim to meet national targets for recycling and waste minimisation
- promote waste minimisation in the community including re-use, repair, recycling and composting

## GREENSPACES AND WILDLIFE

We will:

- seek to make greenspaces more accessible, even safer and more attractive to visit
- aim to create new publicly accessible open spaces where they are needed the most
- work to conserve and improve our many greenspaces and other habitats to benefit wildlife and people
- maintain and create green links using open spaces, hedges, footpaths, verges, trees and streams



## HOW will we achieve this?

### TRANSPORT

We will:

- reduce the need for people to travel
- aim to reduce overall levels of traffic
- try to increase the use of public transport, cycling and walking
- reduce our own impact on the environment from our use of transport

### ENERGY

We will:

- maximise energy efficiency in the design, maintenance and operation of our schools and public buildings, and as landlords to our tenants
- promote energy efficiency in all Croydon's buildings

### LIVING AND WORKING IN CROYDON

We will:

- try to make Croydon a healthier, less noisy and more pleasant place for its residents, workers and visitors
- improve Croydon's built environment
- promote environmental awareness to Croydon's businesses

### FOOD

We will:

- promote organic food, encourage people to grow their own food and make more use of allotments
- promote "fairly traded" food so that its growers receive a higher proportion of its selling price

We will:

- include environmental considerations in policy development, corporate and service planning, strategies and work programmes at all levels of the organisation
- implement the Council's policies and strategies which benefit the environment such as the Unitary Development Plan, Croydon's Local Agenda 21 Strategy, Economic Programme and Healthy Croydon
- adopt an Environmental Management System based on the Eco Management and Audit System
- set objectives and targets and publish an annual report on our environmental performance
- promote knowledge and understanding of the global and local environment and our impact on it by:
  - formal education in schools and colleges
  - training and raising awareness of Council staff
  - providing information
  - campaigning
  - offering support and advice to businesses, voluntary organisations and individuals
- use our investments and purchasing power to promote environmental sustainability
- maintain procedures for dealing with environmental accidents and emergencies
- work in partnership with the public, environment agencies, voluntary groups, businesses and the Government to promote environmental sustainability

A copy of the Green Commitment will be distributed to schools and libraries. It will also be placed on the Council's Intranet and Internet sites. For additional copies or information on how you can make a difference at work, telephone 020 8686 4433 extension 3849

For more details on how you can 'do your bit' for the environment at home, contact the Local Agenda 21 Team on 020 8760 5791