



Toppesfield Parish Council Environmental Policy



Toppesfield Parish Council (TPC) recognises its operations and activities on its premises have an impact on the environment. It has responsibilities to minimise adverse impacts and maximise positive impacts. In all its activities the Parish Council will aim to make a positive contribution to protecting and enhancing the local and global environment. To achieve this Toppesfield Parish Council will:

- Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations
- Regularly update and improve policies in light of increased understanding and knowledge around climate change
- Prepare, implement and monitor environmental action plans for all parish council owned and run assets, including the playing fields and pavilion, and work with the Village Hall Trustees to support them to do the same;
- Minimise the consumption of all resources used in its operations and consider the lifecycle impact of purchases. In particular reduce the use of single-use plastic, unnecessary waste, chemicals such as harmful cleaning products, and pesticides.
- Minimise waste in TPC activities. Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible and encourage the further use of recyclable or re-usable materials only.
- Provide facilities for recycling and composting. Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods.
- Minimise energy use and emissions to air. Use renewable energy sources as far as possible. Recommend energy conservation technology where applicable (including insulation, low energy light bulbs, low water use toilets)
- Work with and support other parishes and local authorities to implement wider scale environmental initiatives.
- Encourage community-led initiatives with an environmental focus on climate change.
- Encourage all community groups to consider the environmental impact of their activities.
- Support initiatives that encourage sustainable transport, such as providing places for cycle parking, cycle path, recharging points for electric cars.
- Respect and protect natural resources through conservation and good management. For example: Where possible conserve water from buildings and on allotments and check/protect external taps in winter; Encourage users of TPC owned grounds to enhance biodiversity to encourage wildlife and plant-life where appropriate; minimise the use of harmful cleaning fluids, polishes and glues etc.
- Where possible use contractors and suppliers who have a shared environmental ethos, have an environmental policy which meets best practice and is updated regularly.
- Where possible engage local contractors, minimising transportation and supporting the local economy.

- Actively support small and large applications for new renewable energy in the area.
- Endeavour to consider the environmental impact of all of our decisions as a Parish Council.
- Provide support, encouragement and, where possible, funding for the Environment and Ecology Group (a working group of the PC) in its activities.
- Disseminate relevant information to parishioners on climate and environmental issues through our Facebook page and Newsletter
- Nominate a councillor to take on the role as Environment Co-ordinator for TPC

For more information and guidance on how Parish Councils can develop their environmental ethic, click:<https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/reports/20-actions-parish-and-town-councils-can-take-climate-and-nature-emergency>