



Conwy County Borough Council

Environmental Report

2023/24

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1.0 Introduction

Conwy County Borough Council recognises the positive and negative impacts on the environment from the wide range of activities and services we deliver and have made a commitment to being a leader in protecting and sustaining the county's natural environment.

We believe that we should lead by example to reduce our negative environmental impact and continuously improve our environmental performance. In order to achieve this, we have implemented the Green Dragon Environmental Standard across all of our services, excluding schools, ensuring our environmental impacts are monitored and managed and our overall environmental performance continues to improve.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the environmental performance of Conwy County Borough Council during 2023/2024, provide an overview of the Environmental Management System and to illustrate progress against our environmental objectives.

1.1 How to obtain further information:

Environment, Roads and Facilities

PO Box 1

Colwyn Bay

LL29 0GG

01492 575337

green.dragon@conwy.gov.uk

www.conwy.gov.uk/greendragon

2.0 Related Links

Green Dragon Environmental Standard

A voluntary initiative in Wales, designed to help organisations improve their environmental performance.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Act places a duty on public bodies to deliver services in a sustainable way, working to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by setting and publishing well-being objectives and taking reasonable steps to meet those objectives.

Conwy & Denbighshire Public Service Board Local Well-being Plan 2023-2028

This 5 year plan sets out the local objectives the Public Service Board will take to improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being for the local area.

CCBC Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027

This 5 year plan sets out the Council's key priorities to support the needs of the citizen's who live in, work in and visit the County Borough of Conwy.

CCBC Climate Emergency Declaration and Notice of Motion May 2019

The Council has declared a climate emergency and commits to ensuring that the county continues to be a lively, viable and sustainable home for our children and future generations. The Council has set a target for the authority to become a net zero carbon user by 2030.

CCBC Climate Challenge Programme

The programme has been established to deliver a decarbonisation plan for Conwy County Borough Council with the vision to lead our communities in delivering a net carbon zero County.

3.0 Organisational Context

Corporate Services

Audit & Procurement, Corporate Finance, People & Performance Service, IT & Digital Transformation, Law & Governance, Research & Information.

Economy and Culture

Leisure centres; libraries; swimming pools; business & conference centres; theatres; Marketing & Communications.

Environment, Roads and Facilities

Waste collection & disposal; street cleaning; public toilets; flood response; flood & coastal defence; parks, green spaces & countryside; playgrounds & play areas; allotments; burials & cremations; maintenance of Council vehicles; maintenance of roads, footpaths, verges, bridges & structures; street lighting; winter gritting; harbour & seaboard management; parking; management of Council buildings; Great Orme Tramway.

Regulatory Services

Animal health monitoring; planning; building control; CCTV; conservation; enforcement; dog warden; environmental quality monitoring; food safety & standards; licensing; street & property naming & numbering; registration of births, deaths & marriages; trading standards.

Strategic Housing Service

Estates and Asset Management; housing support; housing services and housing strategy.

Revenues and Benefits Assessment Service

Collection of national non-domestic rates & council tax; council tax & housing benefit claims & advice; benefit fraud investigations.

Social Care and Education

Social work support; residential & nursing care; home care; day centres, primary & secondary schools.

4.0 Environmental Policy

1.0 Policy Statement

- 1.1 The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and commits to ensuring that the county continues to be a lively, viable and sustainable home for our children and future generations.
- 1.2 Conwy County Borough Council is committed to:
- Becoming a net zero carbon user by 2030;
 - Protecting the environment by minimising the negative impacts from our activities and being community leaders in promoting responsible environmental management;
 - Identifying and complying with all environmental compliance obligations relevant to our organisation;
 - Preventing pollution of air, water and land from our activities and seeking to minimise pollution from other sources.
- 1.3 The Environmental Management System operated by Conwy County Borough Council complies with the latest Green Dragon Standard for Environmental Management 2016.

2.0 Policy Scope

- 2.1 Conwy County Borough Council's Environmental Policy covers all of the Authority's services. This includes Corporate Services, Economy & Culture, Environment, Roads & Facilities, Regulatory & Housing Services, Revenues & Benefits Assessment Service and Social Care & Education.
- 2.2 The main environmental aspects from our activities link to our environmental priorities in the areas of greenhouse gas emissions, consumption of natural resources, waste management, trade effluent discharge and the storage of fuel and associated pollution risk.

3.0 Improvement Objectives

- 3.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027 is aligned to the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and focuses on 9 priority areas:
1. People in Conwy value and look after the environment.
 2. People in Conwy live in a county which has a prosperous economy with culture at its heart.
 3. People in Conwy are educated and skilled.
 4. People in Conwy have access to affordable, appropriate good quality accommodation that enhances the quality of their lives.
 5. People in Conwy are safe and feel safe.
 6. People in Conwy are healthy.
 7. People in Conwy live in a County where the use of the Welsh language is thriving and people can participate in all aspects of community life through the medium of Welsh.
 8. People in Conwy are informed, included and listened to and can actively contribute to a community where their background and identity are valued and respected.
 9. Conwy County Borough Council is resilient.
- 3.2 Performance towards delivery of the Corporate Plan priorities is closely monitored and reported annually.

4.0 Review and Approval

4.1 This policy will be reviewed at least once a year or sooner as operational and business needs dictate. As part of the review, this policy will be presented to the Climate Challenge Programme Board to approve any amendments.

5.0 Environmental Management System

Conwy County Borough Council have been certified to Level 5 of the Green Dragon Standard since February 2014.

The scope of the environmental management system includes all activities and functions of the council, excluding schools, and is audited on a regular basis to ensure all areas meet the requirements of the Green Dragon Standard.

The management system is fully documented and the Environmental Manual acts as a signpost to the different elements of the system, including the documents and procedures for running the management system.

The Environmental Manual and all other documents relating to the management system can be requested from green.dragon@conwy.gov.uk. The Green Dragon staff guide and the Green Dragon fact sheets, which give guidance on legislation that is common across departments, can be found on the green dragon intranet pages.

5.1 Environmental Aspects Register

The most significant environmental aspects of the activities of Conwy County Borough Council have been identified and documented on the Environmental Aspects Register, categorised in accordance with the Register of Compliance Obligations into 7 categories: Statutory nuisance, Water & effluent control, Waste management, Land use & conservation, COSHH, Emissions to air and Use of natural resources.

The significance of the identified aspects are evaluated using a risk matrix, comparing the likelihood of the impact occurring, the consequence of the impact in the event of occurrence and whether a breach of legislation has occurred.

The Aspects Register also identifies if there is a pollution risk associated with the aspect, linking to the Pollution Prevention Plan, and listing specific control measures for these aspects.

The main environmental aspects identified link to our environmental priorities in the areas of greenhouse gas emissions, consumption of natural resources, waste management, trade effluent discharge and the storage of fuel and associated pollution risk.

5.2 Pollution Prevention

The activities of Conwy County Borough Council that pose a potential medium or high risk of environmental pollution, as identified on the Environmental Aspects Register, are documented on the Pollution Prevention Plan.

The plan has been developed to minimise the environmental risks arising from our activities to ensure we can provide an effective response to any potential pollution risk. The Pollution Prevention Plan details the control measures currently in place to minimise the pollution risk, any additional measures required.

In the event of a pollution incident occurring it will be dealt with in accordance with EMS04 and details of the incident, including actions taken, will be documented on the Non-conformance Register.

5.3 Management Review

A Management Review is held annually to act as a forum for continual environmental improvement and to monitor the effectiveness of the Environmental Management System.

A member of the Strategic Leadership Team chairs the Management Review and the Cabinet Member's for ERF – Infrastructure and ERF – Neighbourhood and the Environment, and ERF Business Improvement Manager make up the Management Review Team.

Outputs from the Management Review are recorded in the minutes, which are available on request.

Outputs from the most recent Management Review included:

- Approval that the Corporate Plan outcomes will continue as the environmental objectives.
- Presentation of the Net Zero Carbon Report summarising the performance of the management system and the carbon equivalent emissions produced in 2022-23.
- Confirmation that compliance obligations are appropriately monitored and controlled.
- Confirmation that corrective actions are effective at controlling environmental aspects.

5.4 Legal Compliance

All applicable environmental legislation, regulatory requirements and other voluntary commitments that relate to the environmental aspects of Conwy County Borough Council's activities and services have been documented on the Register of Compliance Obligations including the relevance of the legislation to the organisation; details of the requirement for compliance; the methods used to evaluate compliance and the officer responsible for monitoring compliance. The Register is reviewed annually, in accordance with EMS01.

Records of waste licenses and Display Energy Certificates held by the Authority are maintained and monitored to ensure compliance and timely renewal when required.

5.5 Reducing Green House Gas Emissions

The greenhouse gases released from the activities of Conwy County Borough Council have been identified and we are aware of the activities they originate from and the impact they have on the environment.

The main GHG's identified are:

- Carbon Dioxide from travel and energy use;
- Methane from waste sent to landfill;
- Nitrous Oxide from vehicles fitted with catalytic converters and sewage treatment;
- Ozone from vehicles fitted with catalytic converters;
- Water Vapour.

The work to become a net carbon zero Authority will include monitoring and reporting emissions data from the following sources:

Scope 1 emissions

- Direct fuel used by CCBC owned & operated buildings
- Gas used by CHP plant
- Fuel used by CCBC vehicles and plant

Scope 2 emissions

- Grid electricity used by CCBC owned & operated buildings
- Grid electricity used by street lighting / CCTV

Scope 3 emissions

- Water supply & treatment for CCBC owned & operated buildings
- CCBC staff business travel
- CCBC staff commuting
- Waste from CCBC operations
- Procurement of goods & services
- Energy use by leased assets

2019/20 is the baseline year for emissions reporting and will allow emissions to be tracked towards the goal of becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030. Emissions have been converted into CO₂e for reporting purposes and details are reported annually in the Net Zero Carbon Report which is published on the council's website.

5.6 Sustainable Development

The Well Being of Future Generations Act has set the direction for Wales in relation to delivering services in a sustainable way and working to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

To support delivery of the well-being objectives outlined in the Act the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Service Board have developed a Local Well-being Plan which sets out objectives the Board will deliver to improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of the local area in Conwy and Denbighshire over 5 years.

The Well-being Plan has 4 key themes:

- Well-being: Communities are happier, healthier and more resilient in the face of challenges, such as the Climate Change and Nature Emergency, or the rising cost of living.
- Economy: There is a flourishing economy, supported by a skilled workforce fit for the future.
- Equality: Those with protected characteristics face fewer barriers.
- Housing: There is improved access to good quality housing.

Conwy's Corporate Plan is a 5 year plan which sets out Conwy's key priorities to support the needs of the citizens who live in, work in and visit Conwy and contributes to the delivery of the Conwy & Denbighshire Public Service Board Well-being Plan.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027 focuses on 9 priority areas:

1. People in Conwy value and look after the environment.
2. People in Conwy live in a county which has a prosperous economy with culture at its heart.
3. People in Conwy are educated and skilled.

4. People in Conwy have access to affordable, appropriate good quality accommodation that enhances the quality of their lives.
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8. People in Conwy are informed, included and listened to and can actively contribute to a community where their background and identity are valued and respected.
9. Conwy County Borough Council is resilient.

6.0 Environmental Priorities

Conwy County Borough Council recognises that our most significant environmental impacts are in the areas of:

6.1 Greenhouse gas emissions from our activities

We emit greenhouse gases from nearly everything we do, as we travel and purchase more goods to provide a quality service we are emitting carbon dioxide and other pollutants into the atmosphere, which are adversely affecting our environment.

In 2019 Conwy County Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency and has set up the Climate Challenge Programme to deliver a decarbonisation plan to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. Information on this is published on the Council's website and will be updated as the programme progresses. [Climate Challenge Programme \(conwy.gov.uk\)](https://conwy.gov.uk/climate-challenge-programme)

6.2 Consumption of natural resources

Conwy's Climate Challenge Programme sets out the Council's commitment to managing the carbon emissions from its activities to reduce the negative impact on the natural environment, ensuring it is protected for future generations.

The Programme scope includes carbon emissions produced from the activities undertaken by the council including energy and water consumption in the Council's estate, operation of the council's fleet, business travel and commuting, street lighting and the Council's supply chain.

6.3 Waste management

As well as the waste produced in the offices and depots of Conwy County Borough Council, we are responsible for kerbside recycling and refuse collections from all households in the County; our trade waste service collects recycling and refuse from a number of businesses and schools; we operate a materials reclamation facility (MRF), a bulking station and 2 household waste recycling centres.

Conwy's Waste Service, part of Environment, Roads and Facilities. In partnership with Flintshire and Denbighshire County Councils an anaerobic digestion plant was opened in July 2014 which generating renewable electricity and bio fertiliser for use on local farmland.

In 2019 the Parc Adfer waste-to-energy facility came into operation which processes non-recyclable waste from North Wales Authorities to generate renewable energy to power homes and businesses.

Working towards the national performance indicator for increasing the recycling rate, Conwy implemented the trolibocs recycling collection system in 2014/15 and were the first council in the UK to implement 4 weekly refuse collections during 2018/19 which have contributed to significant improvements in this area.

The result of these actions is that 70% of waste collected in Conwy was recycled, reused or composted in 2023/24.

All the legislation governing these activities is documented on the Register of Compliance Obligations and we ensure compliance with them at all times.

6.4 Storage of fuel for the council fleet

The Transport section of ERF is responsible for providing fuel for all the vehicles and plant in the Council fleet. There are fuel tanks located at 6 depots throughout the county: Builder Street; Plas yn Dre; Gofer Bulking Station, Tan y Gopa, Trunk Road Depot and Tre Marl.

The fuel tanks stock white diesel and pose an environmental risk of fire, explosion, spill, leak and pollution to ground. These risks have been identified in the Environmental Aspects Register and Pollution Prevention Plan and measures are in place to control and reduce the associated risks.

6.5 Trade effluent discharges

We recognise that some of our activities produce trade effluent that is discharged into the waste water system. Where this occurs we have identified the type of discharge and have acquired the appropriate consents from Welsh Water.

We have documented drainage plans for our high risk sites identifying the location, type and direction of flow of drains and location of additional system features to allow efficient management of effluent and drainage systems.

7.0 Environmental Objectives

The 9 priority areas in Conwy County Borough Council's Corporate Plan are our Environmental Objectives:

1. People in Conwy value and look after the environment.
2. People in Conwy live in a county which has a prosperous economy with culture at its heart.
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Detailed information about each priority, including the actions we will take to achieve them and how we will measure progress is available in the Corporate Plan which can be found on the Conwy County Borough Council website here: [Corporate Plan 2022-2027 - Conwy County Borough Council](#).

Detailed performance against the priorities is available in the Annual Report which can be viewed on the Conwy County Borough Council website, here: www.conwy.gov.uk/annualreport

8.0 Environmental Performance

Emissions of CO₂e (greenhouse gas emissions) are monitored as part of Conwy's commitment to environmental management, used to monitor the effectiveness of improvement measures that have been implemented and to establish our overall environmental performance.

Following declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019 the Climate Challenge Programme has been established to deliver a decarbonisation plan for Conwy County Borough Council. 2019/20 is the baseline year from which Conwy's journey to net zero emissions will be measured.

The Climate Challenge Programme will deliver the vision to **lead our communities in delivering a net carbon zero county**.

The programme objectives are to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's estate, fleet, staff commuting, business travel, supply chain and street lighting to achieve net zero emissions.
- To offset the remaining emissions by 2030.
- Develop and implement a local area energy plan for Conwy County by 2030.

Performance of the programme and progress towards the goal of net zero emissions will be managed through the Climate Challenge Programme, reported annually in the Net Zero Carbon Report and presented to Economy and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval.

A summary of Net Zero Carbon Report 2023/24 is attached as appendix 1.