

St.Helens Council Environmental Statement 2010-11

1. Introduction

St.Helens Council recently set up an Environmental Management System (EMS) to deliver improvements in our environmental performance. The Environmental Statement is a requirement of the Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). Although the Council does not yet have a fully accredited Environmental Management Scheme (EMS) nor has been validated to EMAS standard, we wanted to be transparent about our environmental performance and make it available to our local residents and businesses, in line with EMAS guidelines.

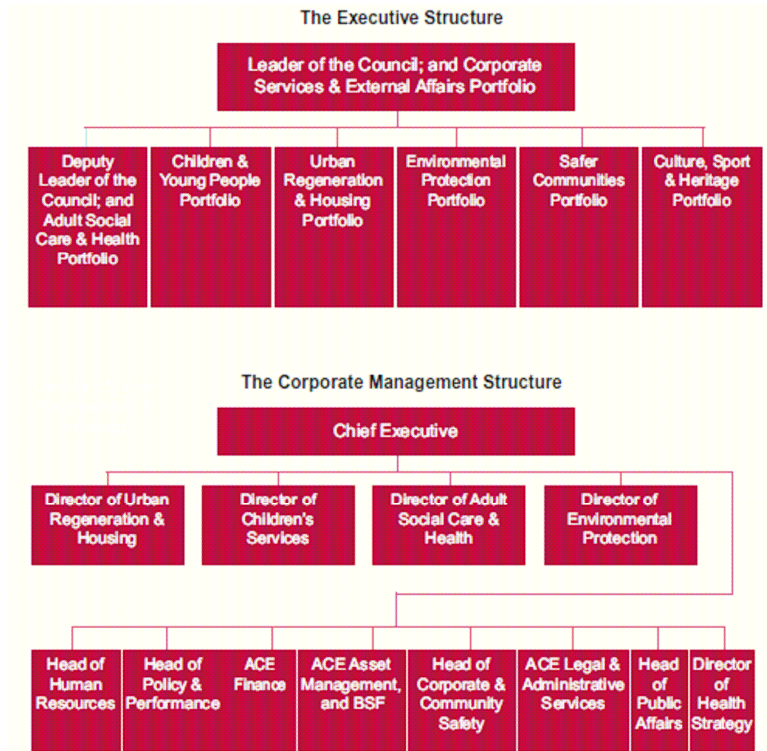
This document outlines the Council's performance against its corporate environmental objectives and targets. The Council's environmental objectives address the Council's significant environmental impacts and are taken from the Corporate Plan as well as being incorporated into the Environmental Policy.

2. St.Helens Council

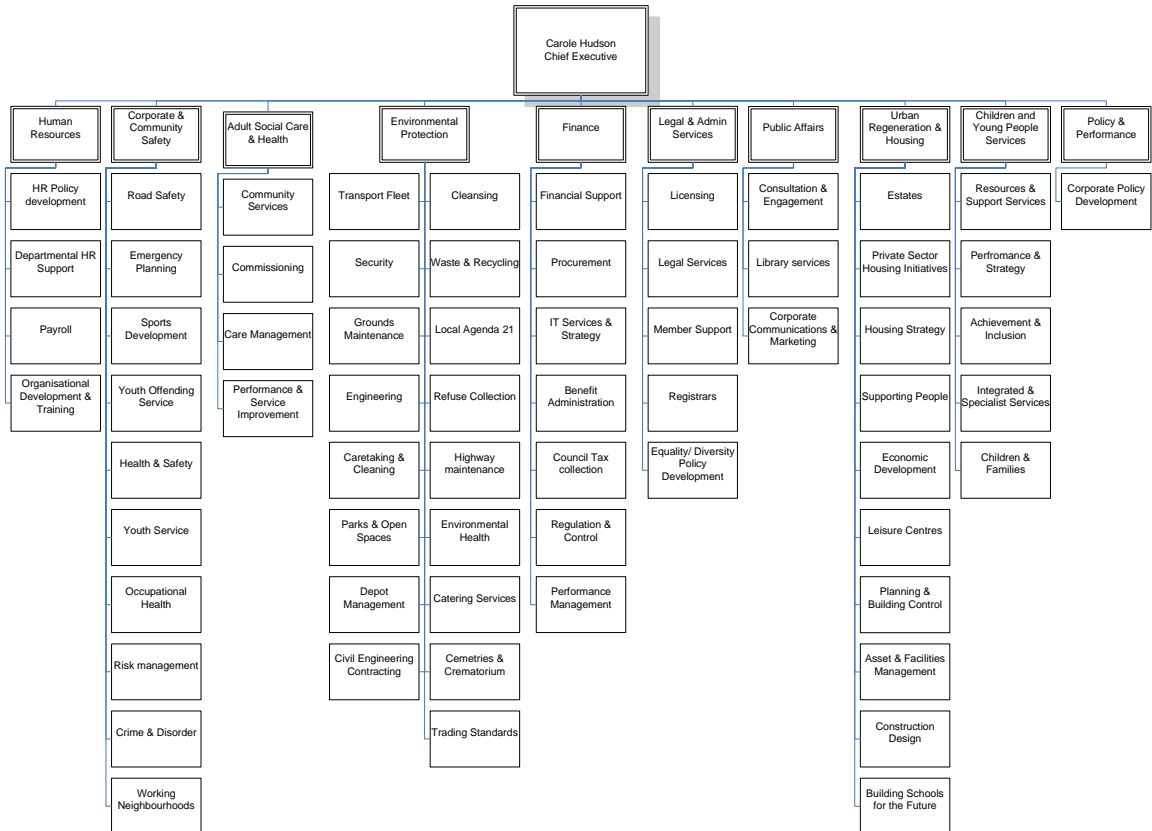
St.Helens Council delivers a wide range of services to the people who live and work within the Borough. It acts as a community leader and works with a wide range of partners to make the Borough a better place to live.

The Cabinet is the executive decision making body within the Council made up of Elected Members and chaired by the Leader of the Council. Cabinet meets on a monthly basis. Each Cabinet Member has a specific portfolio for which they are responsible for and works closely with Officers to implement change and improvements in their respective areas. Cabinet Members also work collectively on joint initiatives to cover cross cutting issues.

The Corporate Management Structure is made up of paid officers who have expertise in their respective professions to manage day to day operations and advise and recommend options to Cabinet on decision making. The Corporate Management Group meet every 2 weeks to keep all chief officers up to date with news and to work collectively at moving the plans and priorities of the Council forward.



The chart below illustrates all the services covered by the Council's EMS .



St.Helens Council Environmental Policy

The existing Environmental Policy was based on the priorities outlined in the Council's Corporate Plan 2010-13. St. Helens Council has committed to reduce its impact on the environment through maintaining an environmental management system. The EMS is delivered through a Corporate Working Group with EMS Lead Officers from each of the key service areas. A team of Environmental Champions (SHEEN) supports this group. SHEEN's main role is to raise awareness and encourage behaviour change across the wider workforce.

The Council has integrated environmental management into decision making through development of an integrated Equality/Diversity, Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment, which must be undertaken for all major operational, policy or strategic decisions.

St.Helens Council Environmental Policy sets out the following Aims:

- E1. Promote and deliver energy efficiency (5.2.4).
- E2. Promote and deliver sustainability through partnership with others to achieve Climate Change Act Targets (5.2.3).
- E3. Provide efficient collection of recyclables and waste, minimising waste, controlling pollution and improving air quality (5.2.2).
- E4. Maximise the reduction, reuse and recycling of water (5.2.5).
- E5. Ensure effective and sustainable procurement in line with best value practice (1.3.7).
- E6. Work with partners to develop sustainable and efficient transport options to maximise connectivity (4.3.7).
- E7. Increase cycling and walking (5.3.4).
- E8. Promote sustainable development that reduces our impact on the environment, enhances biodiversity, and supports the transition to a low carbon economy (4.3.3).
- E9. Change the behaviours of staff, residents and businesses, in relation to green issues, to minimise our impact on the environment (5.2.6).

These Corporate Priorities are integrated into the Corporate Performance Management process. This ensures that sustainability and environmental management are delivered as mainstream aspects of service delivery and improvement.

The Corporate Plan 2010-13 has recently been replaced by the St.Helens Plan 2011-2014, which has seen a major review of the Council's and its partners' aims and objectives. As a result the Environmental Policy is also currently undergoing a review and will be updated later in 2011.

3. Environmental Management

St.Helens Council understands the impact that it has on the environment through the operations and services it delivers. A summary of the Council's significant environmental aspects and impacts is given below:

Environmental Aspects	Functions	Environmental Impacts
Biodiversity Management	Parks Maintenance Construction Planning	Impact on Landscape and Biodiversity
Chemical Storage and Use	Health & Safety Depot Management Grounds Maintenance Pest Control Transport Services Leisure	Land, Water and Air Pollution
Emissions to Air	Crematorium Environmental Quality Transport Services Asset Management Planning & Building Control	Air Pollution
Energy Use	IT Public Buildings Schools Crematorium Construction Housing Planning & Building Control Leisure	CO2 and Greenhouse Gases
Fire Safety	Health & Safety Depot Management Planning & Building Control	Health risk to Biodiversity and people
Transport Use	Transport Services Staff Travel	CO2 and Greenhouse Gases
Fuel/ Oil Storage	Transport Services Depot Management	Land Contamination and Water Pollution
Land Use	Planning Environmental Quality	Land Contamination and Impact on Landscape/ Biodiversity
Noise Management	Events Depot Management Environmental Quality Health & Safety Planning & Building Control	Noise Pollution
Planning and Design Management	Planning	Impact on Landscape and Biodiversity
Pollution Control	Environmental Quality Pest Control Health & Safety	Health risk to Biodiversity and people
Solid Waste	Environmental Care Environmental Quality Construction Depot Management	Waste Landfill
Suppliers & Contractors	Procurement	CO2 and Greenhouse Gases Land, Water, Air and Noise Pollution Drought/ Flooding Health risk to Biodiversity and people
Transport Use	Staff Travel Transport Services Planning	CO2 and Greenhouse Gases
Water Emissions	Parks & Grounds Maintenance Depot Management	Water Pollution

Environmental Aspects	Functions	Environmental Impacts
	Transport Services Leisure Public Buildings	
Water Management	Parks & Grounds Maintenance Depot Management Transport Services Planning & Building Control Leisure Public Buildings	Drought/ Flooding

The EMS Lead Officers have developed improvement actions against all significant Environmental Impacts, for their respective service areas. These improvement plans link back to the Environmental Policy and Corporate Plan Priorities.

4. Environmental Management Achievements

Sustainable Procurement

- The majority of office stationary, paper and IT consumables purchased via the main contractor (Banner) are now manufactured from recycled products. The delivery cycle has also been reduced from 5 to 2 days per week to encourage consolidation of orders. Purchase of non-OEM ink cartridges from recycled sources has led to a saving across the Council of £7,234 in one quarter alone (Oct-Dec 2010), whilst reducing waste.
- A new contract has been set up with Kealshores to recycle inert waste into MOT. The cost of disposal is less than the previous waste contractor and the purchase of recycled MOT from the same company is 40% less than the previous supplier of virgin product. This will lead to an annual saving of approximately £666 per year, whilst conserving natural resources.
- Confirmation has been obtained via suppliers that all diesel used by the Council has low sulphur content.
- The Council has started to procure energy efficient LED Monitors as standard and are exploring the market for low energy PCs in preparation for the next procurement cycle.
- The Sustainable Procurement Project has already facilitated the introduction of sustainable criteria into contract specs for furniture, meat, frozen foods, workwear clothing, domiciliary care and wireless networking in schools, to influence the supply chain to reduce their carbon footprint along with cost.
- Work has commenced in partnership with Envirolink to influence our partners in improving the sustainability of major construction projects.

Information Technology

- The IT Disposal Policy has been reviewed and a more coordinated approach to recycling “surplus” equipment is now in place to prevent unnecessary ordering of new equipment. Any PCs that have no further use are disposed through the Council’s Green PC Disposal contract where

hard drives are removed and destroyed to prevent data loss whilst other parts are recovered and reused where possible.

- The Council Intranet was launched in December 2010. It provides key information for staff (including an Environmental Management section) and will help reduce the amount of paper use.

Transport

- A smart driving guide is now issued to all taxi drivers on renewal of their licence, to encourage more efficient driving.
- A new bunded waste oil storage tank has been installed at Hardshaw Brook to minimise the risk of oil spills.
- All fleet vehicles have had regular exhaust emission checks programmed in – all HGV and PSV vehicles have smoke emission checks completed annually.
- 100% of used batteries from vehicles are recycled through a specialist contractor.
- St.Helens Council has taken an active role in delivering aspects of the Travelwise, Congestion Group and Access Groups Business Plans in 2010/11.
- A device to reduce fuel and emissions has completed a successful trial in the Transport team – further local analysis of savings is underway before any decision to extend the trial to other vehicles.
- New, more efficient, hydraulic pumps have been fitted to the Refuse Vehicles resulting in 14% increased fuel efficiency.
- 4 new Refuse Collection Vehicles have been purchased with on-board fleet management systems to monitor and reduce fuel consumption. A review of routing is also underway to reduce fuel consumption.

Energy Efficiency

- 2 new energy efficient cremators were installed in May 2010 with full mercury abatement in operation since July 2010. This saved approx £20k in 2010/11 compared to the previous year, and savings are expected to be even higher in 2011/12.
- 605 interventions (advice and action) were made by the Affordable Warmth Unit during 2011/12, leading to an increase in the average SAP rating of dwellings in St.Helens to 60.
- A timer has been utilised to control the street lights at Earlestown Market to ensure that they are switched off apart from during market operating times on Friday and Saturday.
- A meter has been fitted to the oil storage cylinder at Sherdley Park Golf Course to enable more accurate monitoring of energy use for heating.
- Improved roof insulation and low energy lighting and sensors have been introduced during a refurbishment to Building Control Offices in the Town Hall.
- Tap and toilet flush sensors along with low energy Blade hand dryers, have been installed in the Town Hall toilets during refurbishment.
- The Private Sector Housing Team are including energy efficiency improvements in all home improvement work, where budgets allow.

- Work is underway to arrange an energy inspection at St. Marys Market so that a Display Energy Certificate can be displayed, and to respond to complaints by customers about the cold in winter.

Waste

- Adult Social Care & Health introduced new initiatives at accommodation based services to recycle cans, cardboard, paper and plastic.
- A new pilot recycling scheme was successfully introduced at Hardshaw Brook to recycle waste materials, which will be rolled out to Town Centre Council Buildings in 2011/12.
- Residual waste going to landfill is decreasing as the level of domestic waste recycling increases.

Enhancing Biodiversity

- The number of Designated Local Conservation Sites in St.Helens with management plans in place increased by 3 to 24 in total.
- During 2010/11 there were 6 new Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) made and 6 TPOs confirmed.
- A Merseyside Ecological Framework is being developed in liaison with MEAS.

Visual Impact

- The final St.Helens Conservation Area Appraisal was completed for Victoria Square, in the town centre. There are 10 Conservation Areas in total across St.Helens.
- Design Briefs have been completed to improve the visual impact of proposed new developments.

Land Contamination/ Water Pollution

- All chemical bunds in use in leisure centres have been checked to ensure they are of sufficient capacity and meet legal requirements.
- The Council has facilitated the remediation of contaminated land at Tickle Avenue and a bid for funding from DEFRA for McCulloch/ Jackson Street has been successful.

Air Pollution

- 2 Air Quality Management Areas have been declared and work is progressing on assessments for a possible 5 other sites.

Environmental Awareness

- 25 members of staff have volunteered to become Environmental Champions as part of SHEEN, to encourage and influence behaviour change across the workforce.
- 13 members of staff achieved a Level 2 Award from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health in Environmental Principles and Best Practice. Further training dates have been arranged for 2011/12.
- 11 EMS site visits completed with Improvement Plans agreed for all of them.

- A Calendar of national campaigns with lead officers has been devised to promote environmental management issues and encourage a change of behaviour and adoption of good practice amongst staff and residents.

Water Management

- A Water Cycle Strategy has been completed for Halton, St.Helens and Warrington to plan to mitigate the risk of flood or drought in the sub region.

5. Environmental Objectives, Targets and Performance 2010/11

The following table lists the performance indicators in place across the Council relating to Environmental Management. The PIs are listed against their respective objectives, and details of performance in 2009/10 and 2010/11 against targets are included.

Key



= Performance better than target



= Performance worse than target



= Performance improved compared to previous year



















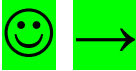




= Performance has got worse compared to previous year













= Performance has remained the same compared to previous year

EMS Objective	Targets for 2010/11	Performance 2009/10	Performance 2010/11	Performance Summary
E1 Promote and deliver energy efficiency	EP02 Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions from LA operations by 3% per annum (inc. Buildings & Transport)		Data to be published	
	Reduction in electricity use in Buildings by 3% per annum	51.12 KWh/m ² Electricity consumed across all Council Buildings (inc schools).	62.16 KWh/m ² Electricity consumed across all Council Buildings (inc schools).	
	Reduction in fossil fuel use in Buildings by 3% per annum	147.89 KWh/m ² Gas and Oil consumed across all Council Buildings (inc. schools)	141.17 KWh/m ² Gas and Oil consumed across all Council Buildings (inc. schools)	
	Reduction in energy used by street lighting by 3% per annum	12,215,528 KWh electricity consumed.	11,919,020 KWh electricity consumed (this equates to 2.4% reduction)	
E2 Promote and deliver sustainability through others to achieve	N187a Reduction households on income related benefits living in homes with low energy	The total number of households on income related benefits living in homes with low energy	The total number of households on income related benefits living in homes with low energy	

EMS Objective	Targets for 2010/11	Performance 2009/10	Performance 2010/11	Performance Summary
Climate Change Act targets.	efficiency by 75 households per year (based on 2008/09 baseline)	efficiency reduced by 116	efficiency reduced by 76.	
	N187b Increase households on income related benefits living in homes with high energy efficiency by 275 households per year (based on 2008/09 baseline)	The total number of households on income related benefits living in homes with high energy efficiency increased by 407	The total number of households on income related benefits living in homes with high energy efficiency increased by 273– the target was missed by only 2 households.	 
	URH55 Increase the average SAP rating of all dwellings in the Borough by 1 point.	Average SAP rating for dwellings was 59	Average SAP rating of all dwellings in St.Helens was 60	 
E3 Provide efficient collection of recyclables and waste, minimising waste, controlling pollution and improving air quality.	EP03 (N192) Increase the percentage of household waste arising which has been sent for recycling by 2% per year	29.93% of household waste recycled	32.55% of household waste recycled	 
	EP06 (N191) Reduce the amount of residual household waste collected to 650Kg per household	658Kg per household collected	627Kg per household collected	 
	EP12 Reduce the number of fly tipping incidents to 850	880 fly tipping incidents	864 fly tipping incidents	 
	EP17 (N193) Reduce percentage of municipal waste land filled to 60%	61.4% of municipal waste was land filled	59.65% of municipal waste was land filled	 
	Recycle 100% of used vehicle batteries at maintenance depot	No Information	All used batteries are recycled via a contract arrangement.	 

EMS Objective	Targets for 2010/11	Performance 2009/10	Performance 2010/11	Performance Summary
	Reduce spillages at waste oil storage facility in vehicle maintenance depot	No Information	Waste oil storage facility refurbished to reduce risk of spillages.	
E4 Maximise the reduction, reuse and recycling of water	Reduce the amount of water consumed in council buildings (inc. schools) by 3% per annum.	0.75m ³ water consumed per m ² floorspace	Data due later in 2011	
E5 Ensure effective and sustainable procurement in line with best value practice	Implement Sustainable Procurement Action Plan to improve key areas of spend.	Sustainable Procurement Project only began in March 2010.	Sustainable criteria built into contract specs relating to Construction, Furniture, Stationary, Social Care, Cleaning, Catering and Clothing	
E6 Work with partners to develop sustainable and efficient transport options to maximise connectivity.	EP14 (N167) Maintain the average journey time per mile during the morning peak on major routes under 4.25 minutes	4.05 minutes	4.05 minutes	
	Improve taxi driver behaviour to reduce vehicle emissions.	No Information	Smart Driving Guide for Taxi drivers produced and supplied to all drivers on renewal of taxi licences.	
E7 Increase cycling and walking	EP18a (N198a) Reduce percentage of children aged 5-10 travelling to school by car to 45.4%	47.9% of children aged 5-10 travelled to school by car	48.3% of children aged 5-10 travelled to school by car	
	EP18b (N198b) Reduce percentage of children aged 11-16 travelling to school by car to 19.3%	21.8% of children aged 11-16 travelled to school by car	20.7% of children aged 11-16 travelled to school by car	
E8 Promote sustainable	EP01 Increase the number of Green Flag Awards to 10	9 Green Flag Awards	10 Green Flag Awards	

EMS Objective	Targets for 2010/11	Performance 2009/10	Performance 2010/11	Performance Summary
development that reduces our impact on the environment, enhances biodiversity, and supports the transition to a low carbon economy	URH26 (N197) Increase the percentage of local sites where positive conservation management has taken place in the last 5 years, to 19.3%	16.3% of sites were under positive conservation management.	18.6% of sites were under positive conservation management.	 
E9 Change the behaviours of staff, residents and businesses, in relation to green issues, to minimise our impact on the environment	Set up EMS and complete 1 st annual review.	No EMS in place.	EMS developed and 1 st Environmental Statement produced.	 
	Develop SHEEN group of Environmental Champions	No Environmental Champions in place.	25 members of staff signed up as SHEEN Environmental Champions, and helping to raise Environmental Management awareness amongst staff through organised campaigns, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Office Week • Buy Nothing Day • Walk to Work Week • Energy Saving Week • Fairtrade Fortnight • Climate Week 	 
	Provide staff with information on how they can be more sustainable in the workplace	Nothing in place	“Environment Matters” Section developed on the intranet with discussion pages to share problems or issues. St.Helens Green Office Guide produced with tips on reducing use of energy, water and waste.	 

EMS Objective	Targets for 2010/11	Performance 2009/10	Performance 2010/11	Performance Summary
	Achieve a 50% reduction in delivery frequency from suppliers of regularly ordered products.	No Information	New Banner contract for stationary led to a reduction in delivery frequency from 5 days to 2 days per week (60% reduction). Work ongoing to tackle other contractors.	 

6. Moving Forward

The EMS is a process of continuous improvement, so work will carry on to minimise the impact that the Council's services and functions have on the environment. The EMS Group will review the existing Environmental aspects and impacts and focus improvement actions on those areas of greatest significance.

A key priority for 2011/12 will be to reduce the energy consumption within our buildings. Despite investment in energy efficiency improvements and campaigns to raise awareness of the need to reduce energy use amongst staff, the data suggests that electricity use in buildings increased in 2010/11. There are some inaccuracies in the data that may explain the increase due to the reliance prior to 2010 of estimated bills by a large number of building managers. However St.Helens Council will continue to strive to become amongst the best in energy management ie. the Civil Service achieved a 13.8% decrease in energy use between May 2010 and May 2011, compared to the previous year, which saved an estimated £13 million. The Carbon Reduction Strategy in Council Buildings will assist in delivering improvements in energy efficiency, and actions from this strategy will need to be reflected in the EMS improvement plan for 2011/12.

Other areas for focus will include Transport/ Travel, Procurement and Waste where the Council's own operations have a considerable impact on the environment. We must not also forget our role as a community leader and the influence that we can have on our residents and businesses in improving their performance in these key areas. The Environmental Policy will also be amended to reflect the changes to the priorities in the new St.Helens Plan 2011-14, and EMS improvement actions will be realigned to reflect these new priorities.

The focus of the EMS Group up until now has been on fairly high level issues affecting whole departments or sections. We need to also focus more on local issues relating to individual buildings or teams. The small number of Environmental Audits that have already been conducted have highlighted some important legal issues or pollution risks that needed addressing on specific sites. It is likely that further issues or risks exist and these will only be discovered through regular audits of sites. This could lead to significant savings in energy and water use or minimise the risk of pollution incidents that could have serious reputational and financial implications on the organisation.

Finally, the EMS will continue to work to raise awareness of the relevant environmental management issues and change behaviour to make the organisation and community more sustainable. A lot can be achieved through technological solutions, but much remains in our control and how we behave i.e. more efficient boilers, ventilation and controls can be installed but if we choose to open windows rather than turn thermostatic controls down then we will continue to waste energy. This is one of the biggest challenges facing the EMS group and one of the most difficult to achieve in such a large organisation. The challenge will be overcome through strong leadership and a coordinated approach, utilising a variety of tools and techniques.