

Environmental Policy

Date: January 2021

Review Date: January 2024



Policy Title:	Environmental Policy
Policy Number:	POL003
Version	2.0
Policy Sponsor	Director of Business Support
Policy Owner	Assets Manager
Committee and date recommended for approval	Business Support Committee 28 January 2021
Date approved by the Board	11 February 2021
Equality Screening Status	Screened - 11 May 2015 Screening Reviewed - 20 August 2020
Rural Needs Impact Assessment Status	Rural Needs Impact Assessment: 19 August 2020
Date Set for Review	January 2024
Related Policies	Health and Safety Policy Procurement Policy and procedures

1. Introduction

In this policy statement the Northern Ireland Library Authority is referred to as Libraries NI.

1.1 This policy statement:

- covers Libraries NI services which impact upon the environment
- is consistent with the United Kingdom's and the Northern Ireland Executive position and commitment to sustainable development
- complies with the Libraries NI policy on health and safety.

2. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to set out the approach to be taken by Libraries NI in minimising the environmental impact of its activities and supporting sustainable development.

3. Policy

3.1 Libraries NI is committed to minimising the environmental impacts of our activities and recognises the need to deliver sustainable development. Where possible we will actively seek opportunities to take advantage of systems, processes and technologies to improve the energy efficiency of our estate and to reduce the environmental impacts of our operations.

3.2 Libraries NI aims to:

- support efficient use of all natural resources, including energy and water
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change
- take action to adapt to climate change
- reduce the amount of waste produced and minimise its environmental impact by following the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle
- conserve and enhance local biodiversity and habitats
- conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of landscapes and towns, and provide opportunities for public access
- support action to create a healthy environment, with reduced pollution and contamination
- promoting environmental good practice within our realm of influence.

3.3 In support of these aims Libraries NI will:

- critically examine the impact our policies and projects have on the environment and where appropriate take timely actions to minimise these impacts

- integrate environmental best practice in corporate and specific policies where appropriate
- strive to continually improve our environmental performance
- comply with the requirements of all environmental legislation as a minimum
- raise awareness and encourage participation among employees in environmental matters
- ensure procurement decisions are mindful of sustainability and environmental impacts
- work with partners and other organisations who demonstrate commitment to reduce their own environmental impact
- ensure access to accurate information, which encourages sustainable lifestyle changes and environmental awareness.

4. Authority

Policy Sponsor: Director of Business Support

Policy Owner: Assets Manager

Policy Contact: Assets Manager

5. Related Policies

Health and Safety Policy
Procurement Policy and Procedures