Environment Policy

6 March 2026

Version 1.0

Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

Lincolnshire County Council considers that the commitment to carbon neutrality ("Net Zero") is an unachievable target which has had no clear funding strategy for authorities at a local level and entails schemes that are a burden to local taxpayers. We will not focus on the attainment of such a long-term target whilst the costs of projects are unsustainable. Instead we are committed to working for and with our residents, businesses and local tax payers and will seek to promote practical, cost-effective, and locally driven actions that protect our environment and natural landscapes. We recognise that as environmental leaders we have a responsibility to ensure that we leave a positive legacy for future generations and that our actions will have long term impact across the County.

It is not considered necessary to change the character of the Lincolnshire landscape from one of rural beauty to an industrial landscape through the delivery of large scale infrastructure projects such as on-shore windfarms, solar panels or electricity transmission pylons with the associated battery storage and substations they require. Such schemes can have a significant impact on our best and most versatile agricultural land and national food security as well as having detrimental outcomes for affected communities and for the mental health of local residents.

One of the key objectives in our Council Plan is:

> **Creating environments that we want to live in:**
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> The Council will work with communities and partners to create a positive environmental legacy in the County and to support growth where it is right for Lincolnshire. We will advocate for projects that can enhance our natural landscape, improve housing quality, and create memorable spaces. We will work with Anglian Water to manage water supply more effectively, we will work with developers and local planning authorities on sustainable design that improves access to services and quality of life for our residents, and will also seek a long-term plan for the Lincolnshire coastline.

Improving the lives of Lincolnshire residents and communities is a fundamental goal of the County Council and we know that investing in projects that enhance the environment can have positive outcomes for air quality, housing standards, business and skills, food quality and production and travel choices and all contributing towards delivering long-term value for money and creating resilience against the effects of a changing climate.

By investing in adapting and mitigating for a changing climate the County Council can help to better protect our most vulnerable residents from its effects, from improving resilience for properties at risk of flooding to innovative design of our facilities to ensure energy efficiency and lower costs.

Our natural environment is one of our greatest county assets with diverse landscapes from the limestone cliffs of the Southern Lincolnshire Edge and the wide open areas of the coast and the fens to the rolling hills of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (Area of

Outstanding Natural Beauty). Investing in protecting and enhancing our natural environment and the provision of access to nature and greenspace is beneficial to all, supporting the county's physical and mental health and well-being and creating new economic opportunities.

Our environmental delivery will focus on protecting and enhancing the environment, our natural landscapes and biodiversity through appropriate actions and strategies and to ensure mitigation, resilience and adaptation to changing climate influences. Our guiding principles to ensure positive outcomes for the environment will be:

- Waste nothing and make the best use of all our resources
- Working collaboratively with others to improve opportunities
- Demonstrate environmental leadership and leave the environment in a better condition than it was found

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Our Environment Statements

Climate

We recognise that the climate is always changing and that we need to mitigate, adapt and respond to the risks and impacts of change, and the more frequent and severe weather events the county is experiencing, to ensure the appropriate management of our infrastructure, assets and services and to protect our residents and businesses.

The Effects of Infrastructure on Lincolnshire's Environment

Agriculture is a fundamental part of the Lincolnshire landscape and environment and as a Council we will seek to protect the interests of food security for the nation. The Council will take into account the protection of our best and most versatile agricultural land when considering the acceptability of proposals for on-shore windfarms, solar panels or electricity transmission pylons that includes significant agricultural land take. This will be considered alongside the local environmental, landscape, historic and community impacts to ascertain if there is any justification for these projects. Where Government determines that these projects will proceed we will use our best endeavours to ensure that we secure maximum community benefit to reduce negative impacts on the Lincolnshire Economy and of the impacts on the welfare and mental health of local residents

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Resource Use and Waste

We will improve energy efficiency in council operations without imposing unnecessary costs on taxpayers and will work with residents and businesses across the county to enable them to do the same.

We will minimise waste and seek to reuse and recycle materials wherever possible, developing innovative solutions to drive forward the principles of a circular economy and ensuring responsible and efficient resource management of all our Council assets, including our buildings.

We will work with partners in other local councils on tackling fly-tipping and litter reflecting the desire of our communities to reside in and visit a well-cared for environment.

Water

We will work collaboratively with partners such as the Environment Agency, water suppliers, drainage boards and our residents to reduce flood risk from the sea, water courses, drainage systems and groundwater, wherever we can, whilst aiding in improving community led resilience to flooding.

We will manage our water resources carefully and promote innovative approaches to resolving issues of water stress to ensure that the required growth in housing provision and economic infrastructure, both industrial and agricultural, is not inhibited by a lack of water resources in the County.

The Natural Environment (The Council's Biodiversity Statement)

We recognise the value that enhanced habitats and improved biodiversity bring in developing natural services such as clean air and water, climate regulation and flood management and better food production and quality.

We will protect and enhance Lincolnshire's natural beauty and heritage and will support the conservation, restoration, and creation of habitats and work to take steps to reverse biodiversity loss, especially those species identified as priorities in the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). We will do so across the Council's own land and assets as well as working collaboratively with communities and local land managers to achieve these aims and for the benefit of current and future generations across Lincolnshire.

In exercising or performing any of our functions and services we will deliver our legal duty to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape and we will encourage access to our high-quality natural spaces, recognising the impact that this has on the health and well-being of residents and communities.

Travel

We recognise the impact our travel choices have on the environment and the challenges faced by a large rural county with a dispersed population. We will seek opportunities to avoid congestion and unnecessary journeys with thoughtful solutions and options across public transport and active travel.

Delivery

To deliver these commitments we will:

- Engage with partners and services, taking opportunities to work with others to open the potential to share funding, experience and networks to reach more people and prevent duplication of effort.
- Ensure compliance with relevant environmental legislation.

- Ensure the positive environmental outcomes are embedded across all Council strategies, plans and activities and in decision making processes.
- Ensure employees are aware of our commitments

The Council will develop a Three Year Action Plan to accompany this policy to ensure appropriate delivery is undertaken across the various principles and themes within the Environment Policy and, where appropriate, in line with the Government's Environment Improvement Plan 2025 pursuant to the Environment Act 2021.