

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER FOR EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Epping Forest District is unique. It is largely rural, with 92% of the district Metropolitan Green Belt land. There are Sites of Special Scientific Interest, conservation areas and over 200 Local Wildlife Sites, as well as Special Conservation and Protection areas.

Residents have stated the special character of the District is important to them, in particular to protect the Green Belt land. In order to do this, we must recognise the impacts climate change will have on the area. We must ensure that we act in an environmentally responsible way, both as individuals and as a council, to reduce these impacts and mitigate changes.

We also recognise that our council has an important role to help our residents and businesses to capture the opportunities and benefits of action on climate change.

To achieve this, we will progressively address the risks and pursue the opportunities presented by a changing climate, in line with local priorities, through our role as:

- Community leader – helping local people and businesses to be smarter about their energy use and to prepare for climate impacts.
- Service provider – delivering services that are resource efficient, less carbon intensive, resilient and that protect those most vulnerable to climate impacts.
- Estate manager – ensuring that our own buildings and operations are resource efficient and are prepared for the impacts of a changing climate.

We will do this by:

- Working across all EFDC departments, teams, policies and plans to ensure that all opportunities to meet the Charter's objectives are pursued.
- Setting EFDC locally-owned and determined commitments and actions to reduce carbon emissions and to manage climate impacts. These will be specific, measurable and challenging.
- Publishing our commitments, actions and progress, enabling local communities to hold us to account.
- Sharing the learning from our experiences and achievements with other councils.
- Regularly refreshing our commitments.

As signatories of this Charter, we the undersigned pledge to:

Commit to Climate Adaptation:

Ensure the Council's assets and operations are resilient to the predicted climate change impacts. Assist in the work to prepare the District for the new climate.

Tackle Greenhouse Gases:

Reduce the amount of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases we as a Council emit through our services and operations.

Be More Sustainable Ourselves:

Influence and use our powers where possible to minimise the environmental impact of our actions and decisions. Assist residents to become more sustainable through advice and policies.

Signed:

Chris Whitbread
Leader of the Council

Glen Chipp
Chief Executive

Dated: 25 October, 2016