



# SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

## CR 5.40 – Sustainability and Environmental Policy

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### 1.0 Document Information

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# Sustainability and Environmental Policy

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# Sustainability and Environmental Policy

## 2.0 Introduction

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service covers the unitary Authority areas of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Powys and Swansea. This policy sets out Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's environmental vision and objectives. It demonstrates the Service's commitment to managing the environmental impacts of its activities and improving its environmental performance.

The World Health Organisation has identified climate change as one of the greatest threats to 21<sup>st</sup> century global health with periods of heavier rainfall and longer hotter seasons having an impact locally on increased flooding and wildfire events. The Service has a responsibility to consider its impacts, protect the communities it serves and fully commit to protect the natural environment of the region.

By promoting this policy throughout the organisation, the Service aims to encourage environmentally sound activities and minimise wasteful and damaging practices.

## 3.0 Purpose

This policy describes Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's approach to environmental issues. The policy has four main purposes:

- To display the Service's strategic intent and commitment to minimise any negative impact from its activities on the environment;
- To provide details of the commitments the Service has made to improve its environmental performance;
- To act as a reference point and be used to inform all day-to-day activities. Due consideration will be taken of this policy when developing or reviewing other Service policies.
- This policy is intended to support the Service's Environmental Management System and 5-year Sustainability and Environment Strategy as well as other environmental plans and reports.

## 4.0 Scope

This policy covers all activities of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and sets out a number of commitments which will help the Service meet its corporate vision.

This policy does not prescribe the precise action to take; it is intended as guidance rather than instruction.

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## 5.0 Background

To assist Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service in realising its vision, the Service needs to be increasingly aware of the effects its activities have on the environment and work towards minimising any negative impact.

The work carried out by the Service can have an impact on the environment. This includes operational activities, encompassing fires, flooding, road traffic collisions and pollution incidents. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue must consider the environmental impact of these activities when managing the immediate incident and during post incident considerations. Through the course of its duties, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service has other direct environmental considerations through the use of its own resources. For example, waste generated from workshop facilities, waste sent to landfill and the use of energy to power our facilities.

The Service will need to work with other organisations to ensure that the best interests of the environment are considered, as well as working towards enhancing and protecting biodiversity within Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service area, as well as on the land that we own.

Additionally, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service will promote an awareness of environmental issues in non-operational areas such as transport, procurement, training, and internal administrative functions. Each of these has a part to play in ensuring that the Service meets its environmental objectives and targets.

For these reasons, this Environmental Policy – Statement of Intent has been created.

## 6. Statement of Intent

### Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS)

#### Environmental Policy - Statement of Intent

MAWWFRS recognises that its operations and activities can impact on the environment. Through the conduct of its business, the Service is committed to reducing its use of natural resources, reducing the amount of waste to landfill, increase recycling, preventing pollution and working towards continually improving its environmental performance in a sustainable manner. In line with Welsh Government commitments, as a Service we are committed to working towards carbon reduction targets set out within our Carbon Reduction Road Map 2030 and Community Risk Management Plan 2040, Objective 7 'We will work in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way'.

MAWWFRS confirms a commitment to promoting a sustainable environment to the communities it serves. In pursuit of its vision "to deliver the best possible Fire and Rescue Service for the communities of mid and west Wales" and in working towards a more sustainable future, the Service supports its communities by means of its fire prevention activities, community education programmes and by minimising

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its own adverse environmental impacts and taking into consideration the causes of climate change.

MAWWFRS is committed to reducing carbon emissions in line with Welsh Government's Net Zero ambition as well as reducing our impact on biodiversity in line with the Section 6 Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and making a proactive and valuable contribution to the protection and enhancement of its environment by the following commitments:

- Aim to align our Carbon Reduction Road Map 2024-2030 with Welsh Government Net Zero Plan;
- Committing to protecting the environment and enhancing biodiversity through the objectives in the Services Nature Recovery Action Plan;
- Ensuring our compliance to all relevant legislation is met or exceeded, including regulatory requirements and agreements which relate to the Service's environmental measures;
- Reporting annually on performance, environmental objectives and targets to ensure continual improvement;
- Promoting the Service's Environmental Strategy, Policies and Procedures;
- Providing dedicated training to employees in their environmental responsibilities;
- Considering environmental issues in purchasing decisions and the planning and design of projects to make sustainable development the Service's 'Core Organising Principle';
- Adopting water reduction measures and enhancing the sustainable use of resources;
- Reducing energy consumption and encouraging green initiatives while incorporating long term strategies for energy efficiency into planning and development;
- Promoting the use of fuel-efficient motor vehicles and expanding our fleet of Zero Emission /Ultra Low Emission Vehicles;
- Expanding our electric charging infrastructure on Service locations and through local collaborations;
- Minimising any adverse impact on the environment of our Service Delivery at operational incidents;
- Minimising waste and pollution by developing and operating environmentally sound waste management procedures;
- Maintaining the grounds and buildings of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service in an environmentally sensitive way, having regard to the protection of local natural habitats and enhancing and encouraging biodiversity;
- Working with our partners and other local and national agencies, as appropriate, to promote environmental policies, deliver 'Best Practice' and protect the environment.

This Statement confirms the Service's commitment to protect both our immediate and wider environment from its activities. Progress in developing and implementing environmental strategies will be reviewed and reported annually. This Statement and other related documents will be made available on MAWWFRS internal and external websites and made available to all as appropriate. This policy will be

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subject to an annual review, ensuring it maintains relevance through continually evolving Environmental legislation.



**R Thomas**  
Chief Fire Officer



**G Thomas**  
Chair of Fire Authority

Date : 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### 7.0 Review of Policy

This policy shall be reviewed following:

- I. receipt of new information;
- II. when introducing change to or new working procedures;
- III. introduction of new agreements;
- IV. in any event after 12 months;
- V. at any other time when the current procedure is deemed to be invalid.