



DEVON &
SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY



GREEN DSFRS

Our vision

Together we will work to end preventable fire and rescue emergencies, creating a safer world for you and your family.

Climate changes are global issues and they have a direct impact on the safety of our communities.

The UK has a legal requirement and target to bring its greenhouse gas emissions to net zero¹ by 2050. On the 1st May 2019 the UK Government declared a Climate Change Emergency. Our communities have seen extreme weather events becoming more common; flooding, heatwaves and storms and yet our populations will continue to grow. We have seen the introduction of Clean Air zones recognising the negative impact of pollution on health, wellbeing and wildlife. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue has a legal and moral responsibility to take action and care for our planet, our people and create a sustainable green future.

¹ Net zero means any emissions would be balanced by schemes to offset an equivalent amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, such as planting trees or using carbon capture and storage technology.

Green Goals

Mitigation: reducing our carbon footprint, greenhouse gas emissions, waste and pollution through new working practices, green initiatives and reducing demand on resources.

Adaptation: reducing the vulnerability to our communities from climate change through our prevention, protection and response activities, making our environment safer and supporting their wellbeing.

Green Foundations

2,000+ people, 80+ premises, 112 front line appliances, 300+ support vehicles, 2 counties covering 4000sq miles with 18,000 miles of road. We need to understand the current impact our service has on the environment. We know we have the capability to make lasting changes and implement these environmental goals. Our first priority is to invest in resources, data analysis and some key project's to make some immediate carbon reduction changes and for the future we will plan our greatest changes around our key themes: **Our People, Our Buildings, Our Journeys** and **Our Services.**

Our People – *working smarter, cleaner and greener*

We can all make positive behaviour changes to make our service and our communities more green and sustainable. As a Service we will:



Deliver “Smarter Ways of Working”, supported by technology and flexible working arrangements



Introduce an environmental officer, champions and develop a Carbon Literacy training package



Deliver environmentally friendly people changes and initiatives

Our Buildings – *green and sustainable*

Our buildings vary in purpose, design, condition and efficiency. Our plan is to reduce our carbon footprint through green or low carbon technologies and sustainable designs. We will:



Measure, monitor and publish our energy, water and waste consumption



Introduce green, low carbon, renewable and carbon offsetting initiatives



Reduce our waste, water and utilities; removing single use plastics and improve recycling facilities at all our sites “less plastic more fantastic”



Encourage green spaces, introduce sustainable designs for the benefit of employees, communities, wildlife and to offset carbon emissions

Our Journeys – *travelling less and talking more*

How we manage our fleet, journeys and travel requirements will make a significant contribution to our environmental impact and our daily lives. Our journeys for work and commuting need to consider the best way to reduce our carbon footprint as well as improving our wellbeing and helping to reduce the risk of accidents on our roads. We will:



Implement telematics to understand, map and reduce our journeys



Reduce the number of vehicles and introduce alternative fuel vehicles in to our fleet



Introduce incentives for our staff to undertake greener travel

Our Services – *reducing demand and risk*

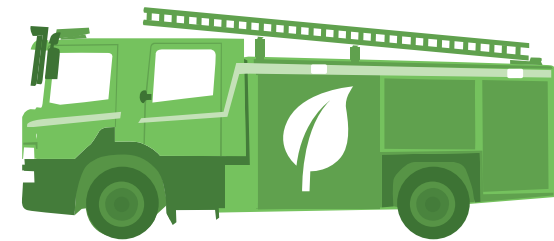
Fires and accidents have a significant impact on the environment; destruction of life, property, wildlife and creating contamination and emissions. To support our response, protection and prevention strategies we will:



Introduce firefighting procedures, techniques and technologies to reduce environmental impact



Analyse and report on our operational and training activities in terms of environmental impact



Adopt working practices that recognise our environmental aims

Our Green Action Plan – *making green outcomes happen*

Reducing the effects of climate change cannot happen overnight. This is a long term strategy but we need to start taking immediate action to become more environmentally aware and proactive. Our plan for creating a green sustainable future is aligned to what we have set out above and plan to do over the following 18 months, 3 years and seeing our greener outcomes by 2030.



Immediate Future 18 months

- ✓ Provide funding to deliver our action plan
- ✓ Making waste reduction a priority
- ✓ Work collaboratively with DEFRA, Environmental Agency, and others to identify and deliver best practice
- ✓ Introduce environmental factors and impacts in our decision making processes
- ✓ Develop self-service processes to reduce inefficiency and remove paper-based systems
- ✓ Putting greater emphasis on environmental changes with our energy companies and third party providers
- ✓ Introduce electric vehicle charging points at our pilot sites
- ✓ Design green and carbon reduction initiatives into our new building schemes
- ✓ Establish fleet telematics system and start to implement
- ✓ Work with Water Companies to understand impacts of firefighting use of water
- ✓ Measure and publish our current environmental impact in terms of emissions, waste, water and utilities
- ✓ Encourage behaviour change and share good ideas for improvement with our staff, partner organisations and wider community.

To consider through the Fire Authority, Chief Fire Officer and Executive Leadership Team our declaration of a climate change emergency and actively promote our strategy with partner organisations and wider community.

Longer term

Medium Horizon 18 months-3 years

- ✓ Review and benchmark our sustainable performance measurements
- ✓ Develop our systems and processes to capture the relevant information to analyse and improve our sustainable performance
- ✓ Introduce high environmental standards in our requirements for goods, services and works
- ✓ To improve fleet utilisation and reduce numbers of vehicles and journeys
- ✓ Introduce new fleet technologies and alternative fuels to reduce emissions
- ✓ Extend our electric vehicle charging point scheme
- ✓ Explore retrofitting renewable energy generation on our larger sites
- ✓ Influence across our local authority area for safe and sustainable building designs and urban developments.

By 2030

- ✓ Seek to influence council partners for reductions in business rates as a result of renewable energy schemes
- ✓ Work with the Environment Agency to ensure that our training and operations are carried out within agreed standards
- ✓ Recognise the financial and wellbeing benefits from our environmental investments and plan for 2050
- ✓ Be proactive in our approach to climate related consultations and seek input from our local communities and support from wider government and agencies for our climate change initiatives.



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