



Ards Borough Council

Environmental Policy

Ards Borough Council aims to be an Environmental Leader for the Borough. We will actively strive to enhance our local environment, improve the health and well being of our local community and reduce the negative impact that we have on our environment year on year.

Environmental Performance

Ards Borough Council is committed to continual improvement and prevention of pollution by reducing the environmental impacts that arise from its business activities and delivery of its services.

Through the implementation of an Environmental Management System we will:

- Set realistic and measurable objectives and targets together with an Environmental Management Programme to ensure continual improvement in environmental performance.
- Regularly review the policy through management review to ensure it continues to be effective and representative of the Council's activities and services.
- Endeavour to:
 - Minimise the amount of waste generated internally and disposed of to landfill. Where reduction is not practical, seek to reuse or recycle waste and ensure the safe disposal of all waste.
 - Introduce measures to ensure best practice and the responsible use of natural resources such as water, fuel and energy where possible.
 - Investigate and introduce measures to minimise the release of pollutants which cause damage to land, air and water due to the department's activities where possible.
 - Reduce the environmental impact of goods purchased at the same time encouraging suppliers and contracted services to improve their environmental performance.

Legal Requirements

The Council is committed to full compliance, and where possible it will exceed the requirements of applicable legislation and regulations and any other environmental standards through the application of Best Practice techniques.



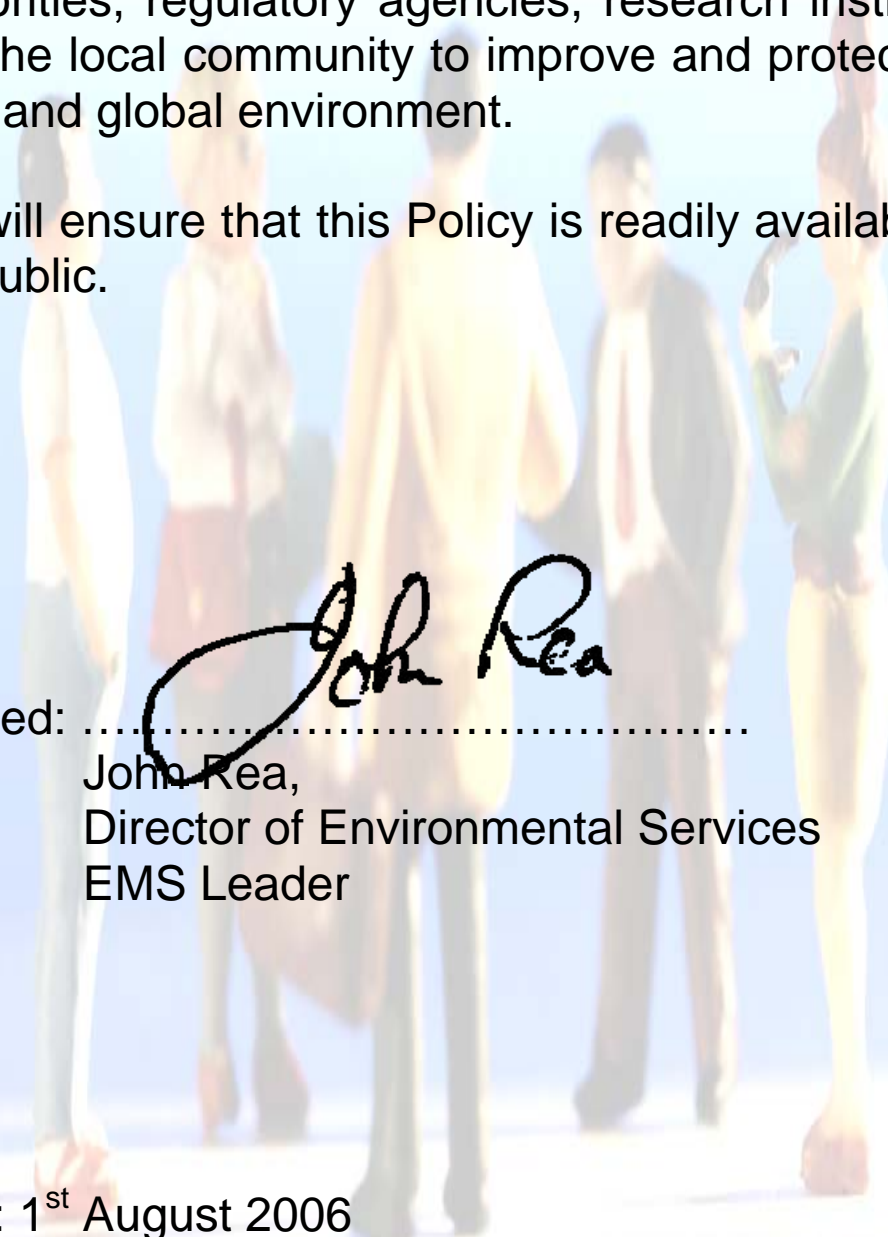
Communication

This policy shall be communicated, understood and practiced by all staff falling under the current scope of the system. We shall raise awareness of the EMS Policy and sustainability issues among all those working for or on behalf of the Council through appropriate training and dissemination of information.

We will strive to consult with and educate local people on the principles of Sustainable Development, so that the quality of life in the Borough can be maintained and enhanced where possible

The Council will address environmental issues in an open manner and maintain close links with relevant authorities, regulatory agencies, research institutes and the local community to improve and protect our local and global environment.

We will ensure that this Policy is readily available to the public.



Signed:
John Rea,
Director of Environmental Services
EMS Leader

Date: 1st August 2006
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