

Opposition Policy Item

Community and Environment

This Item covers

- Commercial recycling
- Alternative Fuel vehicles
- Council internal environmental policy
- Microgeneration of energy

This Council Notes

1. That the quality of the environment is integral to the well-being of the borough's communities.
2. That everyone causes an impact upon the local environment.
3. That environmental awareness is part of everyday political and social discussion.
4. That Local Agenda 21 provides a holistic framework for local action.
5. A Bill for small-scale renewable energy provision has been laid before Parliament.
6. A Bill for the allowance of domestic micro-generation of energy has been laid before Parliament
7. A Bill for reduction of stamp duty in regard to energy efficiency works has been laid before Parliament

This Council Believes

1. That this Council is well placed to achieve a substantial beneficial impact upon the local environment as leader, activist and facilitator.
2. That the values of Agenda 21 are still valid.
3. That recycling is currently primarily concentrated on domestic waste.
4. That where compulsory civic duties are imposed, exemplary conduct should be rewarded.
5. That the Council should lead by example where environmental matters are concerned.
6. That reduction of waste, and emphasis on re-usability of materials are also key to efficient resource use and waste management.
7. Traffic pollution is a continuing impact on Barnet's air quality.
8. Micro-generation of electricity brings a medium to long-term benefit to residents, as well as reducing demand on fossil fuel.
9. PV and solar heat and power technologies have become an economically viable and desirable option to home-owners and commercial premises.

This Council Resolves to urge Cabinet to -

- i) Instruct officers to carry out an investigation into the current facilities for the recycling of commercial waste in Barnet, feasibility of the introduction of recycling for commercial entities, thereby increasing the percentages recycled, as well as end-disposal of gathered materials in the best environmentally sustainable manner possible – e.g. The London Waste Exchange.
- ii) Review and to consider expanding the list of collected products for recycling or appropriate disposal, including, but not limited to, Cardboard, Plastics, Other metals, Cooking Oil, etc.
- iii) Introduce Council Tax discounts for those households who have achieved a high rate of domestic recycling.
- iv) Produce a report within six months into the environmental impact of Council operations, with a view to the introduction of a Council-wide recycling and environmental efficiency policy in terms of recycling, heat and light use, resource efficiency.

- v) Identify potential sites and conduct feasibility studies into biomass generation of power from biodegradable waste within Barnet.
- vi) Write to the Secretary of State and the ODPM urging support of the [Small Renewable Energy Developments \(Permitted Development\) Bill](#) in amending the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, to provide that a “small renewable energy development” be classed as a permitted development within the meaning of that Order.
- vii) Write to the Secretary of State and the ODPM in support of the [Stamp Duty \(Lower Rate for Energy Efficiency Measures\) Bill](#), calling for a reduction in Stamp Duty for residential properties where energy efficiency measures are taken by or on the behalf of the purchaser.
- viii) Write to the Secretary of State and the ODPM in support of the [Renewable Energy Bill \[HL\]](#), calling for the allowance of the sale of domestically generated micro-generation of energy, as well as Local Council targets for such facilities.
- ix) To Include a target for domestic micro-generation of energy within the Local Development Strategy.
- x) Assess the feasibility of installation of alternative power generation and passive solar heating units to council premises and schools.
- xi) Regularly review and report on the vehicle use, purchase and maintenance policy with the intention to maximise advantage of alternative fuel vehicle options and quantify impacts.
- xii) To modify the Local Development Strategy accordingly.

Monroe Palmer
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council