

# Environment Plymouth



## Code of Conduct

### Purpose of Environment Plymouth

The purpose of Environment Plymouth is:

- To offer a unified, politically non-aligned and independent voice for strategic environmental and sustainability concerns in Plymouth;
- To provide a trusted repository of expertise, knowledge and support for the development and delivery of the city's plans, policies and strategies, funding bids and projects.
- To encourage and facilitate the meetings, discussions, knowledge exchange and communication required to encourage progress.

In doing so Environment Plymouth will:

- Recognise individual members as representatives of the city's diverse neighbourhoods, community, environmental and sustainability interests and organisations.
- Work towards a future for Plymouth that meets the needs of today's city without compromising the ability of future generations of Plymothians to meet their needs.
- Uphold and promote the key principles of sustainability thereby ensuring that social, environmental and economic impacts are considered equally, fairly and with clarity at all times.
- Address issues in a holistic way including, but not exclusively, focusing on, future options for sustainability, tackling plastics in the environment, the impact of climate change and the potential for the city's low carbon future and environmental quality, its open and green spaces, habitats and wildlife, the marine environment, the built environment of the city and the protection of its natural and, where appropriate, built and natural heritage.
- Working inclusively in partnership with Plymouth's voluntary, community, business and social enterprise sectors, the local authorities, statutory bodies and educational institutions, Environment Plymouth aims to share its expertise with local decision makers relating, wherever necessary, to best practice for local, regional, national and global concerns, policies, consultations and events and creating a common voice for the city's environment and sustainable future.
- Support, defend and promote the needs and interests of Plymouth's blue/green environment.

Environment Plymouth will therefore :

- Provide an informed, independent and unbiased voice for environment and sustainability matters across the city of Plymouth and, where appropriate, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Conduct its affairs in a public-spirited manner.
- Where appropriate attract grant funding and/or generate its own income to support Environment Plymouth activities and, where possible, those of its members and the community.

### **Environment Plymouth's 'values' :**

*These are based on the Seven Principles for Public Life (the 'Nolan Principles', 1995) :*

These principles require:

- Selflessness – acting in the interests of Environment Plymouth, its members and wider interests.
- Integrity – avoiding financial and/or other obligations to external parties who may wish to shape Environment Plymouth's decisions or direction.
- Objectivity – conducting Environment Plymouth's business in the manner described above.
- Accountability – being responsible and accountable for the recommendations, decisions, actions and actively engaging with any scrutiny associated with this.
- Legality – ensuring Environment Plymouth's collective actions remain within the law whilst recognising the individual's right to decide on their personal contribution to local campaigns and projects.
- Openness – being open and transparent around recommendations, decisions, actions, stating reasons for these and restricting information only when absolutely necessary. Environment Plymouth members are invited to respect the views of other members, to listen and learn, to appreciate that collective agreements may require flexibility and that a consensus will be sought wherever possible. Different perceptions are to be encouraged.
- Honesty – declaring any private or commercial interests relating to Environment Plymouth's network and actively and openly resolving any potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest.
- Leadership – abiding by, supporting and modelling these principles by leadership and example.

### **Code of Conduct**

This Code of Conduct applies to all Environment Plymouth members and will encompass:

- Abiding by the law and Environment Plymouth's Terms of Reference and any future policies and procedures when attending Environment Plymouth events or representing Environment Plymouth at third party events.
- Declaring any potential, perceived or actual conflict of interest or loyalty as soon as it arises.

- Not gaining personally, financially or materially from membership of Environment Plymouth or permitting others to do so through actions or negligence, other than any such gains which comply with the 'Selflessness' and 'Honesty' conditions of Environment Plymouth's 'Values' statement above
- Always acting in Environment Plymouth's best interests and in the best interests of the wider Environment Plymouth network.
- To maintain the reputation of Environment Plymouth.
- Endeavouring to read all relevant documents and communications.
- Attending meetings whenever possible and giving notice in advance if unable to attend.
  - Engaging in discussion, debate knowledge exchange and decision making according to procedure.
  - Represent their respective organisations and their strategic interests in Plymouth's environment and sustainability; raising concerns and offering support as appropriate.
  - Maintaining a respectful attitude to other members and participants, while appropriately ensuring that your own views are expressed and heard.
  - Respecting, valuing and striving to accommodate the diversity of opinions, perspectives, preferences and roles which contribute to the vibrancy of Environment Plymouth's network.
  - Upholding confidentiality where appropriate, unless expressly permitted to share such information.
  - Respecting the rules of GDPR in relation to the sharing of information.
- Notifying the Environment Plymouth's Co-ordinator in writing or by email if resigning as a member and, if possible advising of the new contact for your appropriate organisation.

**Members should :**

- Ensure that their behaviour, whether intentional or unintentional, does not cause stress or grief to other members.
- Respect the abilities and backgrounds of all Environment Plymouth members. Radical political views and opinions, bullying (in any form), sexism, racism, homophobia, religious discrimination and actions recognised as illegal or bring Environment Plymouth in to disrepute will not be tolerated.
- Members remain responsible for their own views and actions and are expected to behave in an appropriate manner when representing Environment Plymouth.

**PLEASE RETAIN THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS**

**and/or share it with those who may represent you at future meetings**

**THANK YOU**