



Shropshire Wildlife Trust exists to protect wildlife for the future; sustainability is at the heart of the Trust's activities. However, we recognise that through our operations we have an adverse impact on the environment. We will therefore seek to minimise any negative environmental impacts and to achieve continuous improvement in our environmental performance.

As biodiversity is the core business of the Trust, this is not covered here. This policy covers the wider environmental impacts which the Trust needs to consider.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

The Trust will keep abreast of and comply with all environmental legislation.

- *Staff will keep up to date with environmental legislation, integrate changes into policies and procedures and communicate these to staff/volunteers/contractors*
- *We will undertake environmental impact assessments for major projects*

2. EDUCATION & INFORMATION

The Trust will raise awareness of environmental issues amongst staff, volunteers and members and encourage the use of best environmental practice by:

- *Communicating the sustainability policy to all existing staff and to all new starters as part of the induction process*
- *Raising awareness of sustainability amongst our members*
- *Acting as an advocate for sustainability when talking to partners*

3. PURCHASING & FINANCE

Sustainability will be an important consideration for the Trust when making decisions regarding the purchase of goods and services. We will:

- *Purchase from/invest in companies that have strong environmental policies and performance and a good record of corporate responsibility*
- *Purchase products which have environmental/sustainability accreditation e.g. FSC timber*
- *Purchase goods which are recycled/recyclable where possible*

4. WASTE

The Trust will identify its waste streams and seek to minimise their environmental impact. We will:

- *Operate according to the 4 Rs – reduce, reuse, repair, recycle*
- *Ensure vehicles, machinery, tools and equipment are regularly maintained to extend lifespan*

5. TRANSPORT

The Trust will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of transport being used directly or indirectly as a result of Trust operations. We will:

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- *Purchase goods and services locally*
- *Promote the use of public transport/bicycle by visitors to our reserves*
- *Investigate fuel efficient/low emission options when sourcing new Trust vehicles*
- *Encourage staff to use public transport to attend training courses, conferences etc*
- *Seek to avoid travel where staff can practically use teleconferencing*

6. ENERGY USE

The Trust will seek to reduce energy use resulting from its operations and to support the use of renewable energy where this does not conflict with the objective of protecting wildlife. We will:

- *Use low energy lighting in Trust offices*
- *Reduce electricity use through e.g. ensuring lights are turned off when offices are not in use, turning off computers, printers etc when not in use*
- *Seek to use an energy supplier with a renewable energy price plan*
- *Ensure that Trust buildings use energy efficiency/renewable energy technology where possible*

7. POLLUTION

The Trust will seek to minimise all forms of pollution resulting from its activities. We will:

- *Buy non-polluting products wherever possible e.g. cleaning products, lubricants*
- *Record and monitor use of pesticides and review policy regularly*
- *Control burning/bonfires on reserves*

8. WATER

The Trust will seek to minimise the use of water in its operations. We will:

- *Ensure any new buildings incorporate e.g. grey water recycling, low flush toilets*
- *Use water-efficient dishwashers and water heaters*

9. BUILDINGS

The Trust will maintain its buildings to a high environmental standard. We will:

- *Ensure they provide a comfortable working environment*
- *Respect and conserve their heritage features*
- *Integrate wildlife opportunities into the management of buildings and their grounds*

10. MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Trust will monitor its environmental performance and undertake regular reviews of the sustainability policy.

- *Monitor the use of electricity and other fuels*
- *Monitor paper use through purchasing system*

Policy adopted date 28 April 2015

Policy review date 1 April 2018

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