

**Wildside Activity Centre
Hordern Road, Whitmore Reans
Wolverhampton WV6 0UA**

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Introduction

As an Environmental Education centre, our principal aim is to inform our users and neighbours of the reasons for, and the benefits of, working and living an environmentally sound lifestyle. We believe that leading by example is the best way for us to achieve this aim.

This policy recognises the important role that all the following groups within and associated with Wildside Activity Centre have to play in order to successfully implement the Environmental Policy Statement (Eco-Code):

The Board and Management	Permanent and Sessional Staff
The Wildside Volunteers	User Groups
The Members	Visitors

The whole process is overseen by the Eco-Centre Committee who:

- * Draw up the Eco-Code for the Centre in consultation with interested parties. Hold a meeting once every three months which is open to anyone associated with the Centre.
- * Draw up the Environmental Policy Document in consultation with interested parties.
- * Invite suggestions as to how the Policy may be improved.
- * Review the Policy at least once a year.
- * Make all the interested parties aware of the environmental policy and how its contents relate to them.
- * Draw up an Action Plan for environmental improvements to the fabric, function and activities of the Centre.
- * Review the Action Plan at least twice a year.

The Eco-Code and this policy will be displayed on the Eco-Committee notice board in the meeting room and on the Centre's website.

Litter and Waste Management

We work using the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle principle.

We Will:

- * Remove litter from all sites that we visit and work from and provide a litter bin in the centre car park.
- * Provide recycling bins for glass, paper and drinks cans in the car park, and inspect these regularly to remove misplaced items.
- * Salvage material from broken or obsolete items for use in future projects.
- * Run 'waste awareness' sessions with school groups who bring packed lunches to the Centre.
- * Design activity sheets to be reusable wherever possible (laminated and dry wipe pens).
- * Use E-mail for communicating with outside bodies rather than letters where appropriate.
- * Print and photocopy on both sides of paper where appropriate.
- * Reuse paper printed on one side for internal use.
- * Save envelopes, jiffy bags and packaging material for reuse.
- * Compost leftover food, garden waste and paper hand towels.
- * Use refilled or remanufactured ink jet cartridges.
- * Remove used stamps from envelopes and give to charity.
- * Give unusable untreated timber to those who can burn them to generate usable heat.

- * Use sawdust and shavings generated on-site from untreated wood as mulch.
- * Promote the use of 'Freecycle'.
- * Work to discourage flytipping on and around our site

We would like to:

- * Move to a 'paperless office'.
- * Continue reducing the waste from site

Energy Use

We will:

- * Turn off lights and electrical appliances when not in use.
- * Keep windows clean to maximise natural light input.
- * Keep outer doors closed during cold weather.
- * Switch the photocopier to 'standby' after use.
- * Use 'low energy' light bulbs instead of incandescent.

We would like to:

- * Become 'carbon neutral'.
- * Generate our own electricity from wind and solar power.

Transport

We will:

- * Encourage travel by bike through promotion of health benefits.
- * Encourage travel to the Centre by bike by offering safe, dry cycle storage facilities.
- * Encourage business travel by bike by offering to pay mileage.
- * Share cars when travelling to meetings or work sites.
- * Buy construction materials in bulk and have these delivered.
- * Encourage school groups visiting the Centre to walk or use public transport where practical.
- * Encourage use of public transport by staff attending meetings.

We would like to:

- * Convert 'Trebalisa' to electric power.
- * Raise awareness of water-based transport for freight transport

Water

We will:

- * Continue to use water savers in toilet cisterns.

We would like to:

- * Limit the use of mains water to drinking, culinary and washing only.
- * Collect rainwater and reuse grey water for watering and toilet flushing.
- * Raise awareness of the importance of keeping bodies of water clean

Purchasing Policy

We recognise our role in encouraging manufacturers, suppliers and contractors to develop environmentally preferable goods and services at affordable prices.

We will:

- * Continue to buy only Fair Trade tea and coffee.
- * Continue to buy electricity from suppliers who only supply from renewable sources.
- * Continue to buy recycled paper for general use.
- * Buy energy efficient equipment when old items are replaced.
- * Only buy peat free compost.

We would like to:

- * Use only environmentally friendly paints and preservatives.
- * Buy in only reclaimed timber or FSC wood products.
- * Vet suppliers and contractors for their environmental credentials.
- * Apply the standards in the government's 'Green Claims Code' when buying goods and services.

Environmental Policy and Practice

We will:

- * Maintain a high profile within the centre by publication and review of the Eco-Code, Environmental Policy Document and Action Plan.
- * Give environmental consideration high priority when designing and reviewing sessions.
- * Avoid involvement with projects that are unsustainable or damage to the environment.

We would like to:

- * Use a recognised Environmental Impact Assessment procedure when designing and reviewing activities and projects.
- * Promote good practice with developers who have an influence on our site and surroundings

Activity Site

We will:

- * Continue to incorporate 'leave no trace' and litter pick sessions as part of all visits.

The Outdoor Environment

We hope everyone finds the Centre grounds to be safe, exciting and informative.

We will:

- * Maintain the weather station and publish results.
- * Adopt the guidelines in 'Every Child Matters', 'Learning Outside the Classroom' and 'Sustainable Schools Framework' when applicable.

We would like to:

- * Provide bio-diversity rich grounds where wildlife can thrive and Centre users can learn about native flora and fauna.

Partnerships

We will:

- * Continue to welcome representatives of partner organisations to Eco-Centre Committee meetings.
- * Work with partner groups to further our aims.

We would like to:

- * Involve young people more in our decision making process.
- * Promote a local network of Eco-Centres and Eco-Schools

Communication and Awareness

We will:

- * Ensure that visitors and groups are aware of our Eco-Code and Environmental Policy
- * Ensure that staff are informed of their responsibilities in the staff handbook.
- * Ensure that volunteers know what is expected of them by training and information in volunteer induction pack.
- * Include information within the Centre newsletter.
- * Maintain a notice board within the Meeting Room.
- * Maintain the 'Sustainability Trail' and information/interpretation boards in the Centre grounds.
- * Develop activities for young people that promote sustainable lifestyles.

We would like to:

- * Make use of local media in informing our neighbours of our environmental aims and achievements.
- * Display a 'we do/we do not' poster prominently within the Centre.
- * Promote Wildside Activity Centre as a venue for 'Green Tourism'

Legislation

We will:

- * Make sure our activities comply with current environmental legislation and specify that contractors do the same when working on our premises.

Signed:

Dated:

Next Review Date – Before March 2008

Chair of the Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Wildside Activity Centre