

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1. Introduction

This policy has been produced to endorse the Centre's commitment to promote environmental issues as a fundamental element of its activities and to demonstrate its resolution to continual improvement in environmental practices, the protection and conservation of natural systems and its commitment to manage the site to maximise biodiversity.

2. Mission Statement

We want Lambourne End Centre to become a model environmental centre, by which we mean that the practices of the Centre should be exemplary in promoting environmental protection and having minimal environmental impact.

3. Definition

Sustainable development: This means adopting a lifestyle that does not limit future generations' choice of lifestyle.

Optimum use of resources: This means that total resource use should be reduced; given the choice renewable resources should be used in preference to non-renewable resources; Renewable resources should not be used to the point where they cease to be renewable. Ultimately, if an action threatens to exhaust a resource then it must stop.

4. Policy Statement

Lambourne End Centre will contribute towards the conservation and protection of the environment by improving its own environmental practices and by promoting awareness of environmental responsibilities among all staff and users.

This is to be achieved through the following policy aims and objectives.

5. Aims

- 5.1. To run according to the two major environmental principals of sustainable development and optimum use of resources and improve awareness and understanding of these principles among staff and users.
- 5.2. To reduce the impact the Centre's operation has upon the environment.
- 5.3. To offer everyone who comes to the Centre a high quality experience that will encourage them to take a greater interest in their environment and its protection.
- 5.4. To encourage all staff and users to be active participants in environmental initiatives.
- 5.5. To support research, consultancy and project work addressing sustainable development by Centre staff and users.
- 5.6. To ensure involvement and liaison with appropriate sustainable development organisations.
- 5.7. To work with the local community, public and private sector organisations to improve the local environment and promote sustainable development.

6. Objectives

6.1. Environmental awareness

Lambourne End Outdoor Centre will

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- raise awareness of the concept of sustainable development and individual accountability among staff and users.
- help resource conservation as a result of a Centre-wide education programme.
- create opportunities for staff training in environmental matters both in-house and through attendance at seminars, courses and working parties.
- implement training on power saving with computers, copiers etc.

6.2. Environmental initiatives

The Centre will

- review all sustainable development initiatives in the Centre.
- establish environmental management procedures among staff with managerial or operational responsibilities for activities that affect the Centre's impact on the environment.
- implement a staff suggestions procedure on ways to improve practices which impact on the environment.
- identify specific responsibilities within job descriptions and contracts, which support the Centre's Environmental Policy

7. Environmental management

7.1. Energy:

The Centre will use the least damaging form of energy wherever possible and encourage, where possible, the use of alternative energy resources.

The Centre will use energy saving devices and products to conserve energy and will progressively improve heating and lighting systems, and invest in energy efficient copiers, IT and electrical equipment.

7.2. Buildings and Grounds:

The Centre will ensure that all building work undertaken has the concept of environmental responsibility as a central issue within the working brief.

The Centre will develop and implement recommendations to improve the "greening" of the site and its organisation.

7.3. Water and pollution

The Centre will consume fewer resources and will conserve water by gradually installing water saving devices.

The Centre will reduce the volume of waste it produces through a comprehensive waste management policy and encouraging a change in the perception of waste among staff and users. It will provide means of collecting all waste products which can be recycled – to include batteries, books, cans, furniture, farm and garden waste, glass, laser/copier paper, plastic.

The centre will implement best current practice for handling hazardous waste.

7.4. Purchasing and Contracts

Lambourne End Centre will avoid buying unnecessary products. It will reduce consumption of product and will consider the environmental implications of products used.

The Centre will purchase goods that are produced in an environmentally sensitive manner and create least waste over those which are not environmentally friendly.

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The Centre will buy products that come by means of fair trade over those that do not. The Centre will buy local products.

7.5. Transport

Journeys will be made using the most environmentally friendly means possible, encouraging car sharing and reduce car use where possible.

Visitors will be encouraged to make use of public transport and low impact means of transport.

The Centre will encourage cycling through improved shower and changing facilities.

7.6. Flora and fauna:

Lambourne End Centre will manage its land to allow the growth of the most appropriate flora and fauna for nature conservation and will also encourage nature conservation in the surrounding area.

7.7. Environmental Education

The centre will help users learn about natural history and raise their awareness of conservation issues and will encourage visitors to participate in environmental education activities

The Centre will explore sources of funding to support the collection and development of a range of sustainability oriented learning and teaching materials in order to develop an up-to-date sustainable development education resource.

8. Networking

The Centre will:

- develop a dialogue with local and national environmental agencies and groups to promote institutional greening.
- establish environmental links with statutory organisations, local schools and other community organisations.
- establish links with companies, NGOs, Government and other appropriate organisations that help promote a sustainability agenda, both in the Centre and in the local community.
- identify organisations, companies and publishers which provide environmental information and/or advice on good practice

9. Local improvements

The Centre will:

- strengthen links with the Woodland Trust and Epping Forest's Countryside Care programme.
- comply with Epping Forest Plan policies and sustainable criteria.
- seek to influence and support regeneration initiatives in the local area

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ash'.

Date: 09/09/2023

Position: CEO

Environmental Policy

