



## Environmental Policy

[Your Friends Group] will ensure that its activities minimise harm to and are as beneficial to the environment as possible.

The purpose of this policy is to examine the practices of our organisation, to identify any which are potentially harmful to the environment, to agree on actions to address them, and to ensure that those actions are carried out. It will also demonstrate to the wider community our commitment to protect the environment in a responsible manner and to work in an efficient, environmentally friendly and therefore sustainable way.

[Your Friends Group] needs to be environmentally sensitive and considerate of the environment, and we have identified the following areas which we need to consider

- Creation and disposal of Waste
- Use of Energy
- Use of Water (and other Natural Resources)
- Use of the Park Landscape
- Purchase and use of particular products
- Transport

Within each of these areas, we have identified various specific issues and actions to address them:

### 1. Minimise waste and recycle more

This group will seek to minimise the amount of waste that we generate and also try to promote re-use recycling and composting wherever possible. We will make every effort to:

- minimise printing of documents, print documents double-sided and reduce font size etc to minimise number of sheets of paper used where possible
- recycle as much of our waste as possible, including by composting

### 2. Use less energy

This group will respond to the national need to reduce Carbon Dioxide emissions to help combat global climate change. It will seek to minimise energy use in every area of its activities including heating and lighting. Examples of this could be:

- We should use artificial lighting only when necessary and remember to turn everything off at the end of meetings
- We should not overfill the kettle when making drinks at meetings and events

### **3. Reduce water use**

We will reduce water usage and waste where possible

### **4. Sustainable land management**

In its management of land, this group will seek to reduce harm on, and take opportunities to enhance, wildlife and the natural environment. We will make every effort to:

- reduce or eliminate the use of artificial chemicals used on the land that can build up and harm wildlife and pollute local waterways
- try to use local native species to encourage local wildlife when doing new planting
- use compost we have made ourselves or obtained from a local source rather than peat-based compost
- compost any weeds or clippings

### **5. Consider the environment when deciding what products we purchase**

- buy recycled products where possible
- buy local produce, or products that are environmentally friendly or from sustainable sources
- buy products which are not over-packaged and where packaging is biodegradable or recyclable

### **6. Transport**

- Encourage group members to travel to meetings or events by public transport, bike or on foot, or to share lifts wherever possible

### **Raising environmental awareness**

This group will try to ensure that all of its members are familiar with this policy and get the opportunity to find out more about environmental sustainability issues and that they have the opportunity to voice any concerns which they might have about our practice or that of the Council. We will also make it our aim to raise environmental awareness amongst all park users through both example and educational work.

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