



TORBAY COAST AND COUNTRYSIDE TRUST

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1. Introduction

Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust is committed to the conservation of the heritage and environment of Torbay and this is its over-riding charitable object. Its work is therefore intimately involved with environmental protection and enhancement. However, although the end product of this work is almost invariably of net environmental benefit, the means employed may not be. This policy is designed to ensure that the Trust observes good environmental practice in all areas of its work.

2. Statement of Aims

The Trust will work to ensure that in all areas of its work, including transport, use of chemicals, practice of recycling, purchasing policies, waste disposal and construction methods it adopts the best practicable current environmental practice.

3. Green Team

The Trust has a Green Team that meets quarterly to review the Trust's environmental performance on the range of issues identified below. The committee makes recommendations and also ensures that all of the Trust's work is kept constantly under review. This is done through a Green Team Action Plan which is regularly updated.

4. Issues

4.1 Transport

- Fuel consumption is one of the Trust's greatest environmental impacts. All of the Trust's vehicles currently have diesel engines. Future vehicle purchases will be made on the basis of best available technology. The Trust aims to convert vehicles to re-processed vegetable oil where practicable.
- The Trust has a Travel Plan the recommendations of which the Trust is working to implement. Staff mileage is carefully monitored and staff share cars when possible.
- The Trust promotes the use of sustainable transport to reach its sites and aims to provide information to visitors through publications and the Trust website.

4.2 Use of chemicals

- The Trust makes relatively little use of chemicals in its land management and its policy is not to use chemicals except where absolutely necessary. The principal areas of chemical use are in the maintenance of the cricket square at Cockington and in the protection of young trees from weed competition. Chemicals used for these processes are stored in COSHH-compliant stores at Cockington Court and staff using chemicals are formally trained to national standards in their use.

- In building management the Trust uses paints, varnishes and timber treatment products. It plans to use environmentally-friendly paints in all future decoration projects.

4.3 Recycling/Waste

- The Trust's policy is to minimise its use of finite resources. This it achieves through its purchasing policy and operations management policies (see below). However some use of finite resources is inevitable and the Trust works to recycle waste products from these uses wherever possible. Examples include toner cartridges, plastics, paper, cardboard and glass.
- Recycling of renewable resources such as paper, wood and leaves is also practised throughout the Trust, with the ultimate goal of reducing the volume of degradable matter entering the waste stream.

4.4 Energy management

- The Trust aims to keep its energy use at a continually low level and to invest in energy-saving technology wherever possible. Its properties are lit with energy-saving bulbs and include roof insulation, toilets are fitted with water-saving devices and energy consumption is regularly reviewed.
- The Trust is pursuing funding to install a Bio-mass boiler at Cockington and a small wind-turbine at Ocombe Farm.

4.5 Purchasing policy

- The Trust monitors its purchasing procedures and sources regularly and aims to purchase only goods and materials that have minimal environmental impact. This is done in line with the Trust Purchasing Policy.
- The Trust aims to use Fairtrade products where possible.

4.6 Operations management

- In its day-to-day work the Trust aims to minimise its impact upon the environment by keeping close control over the volume of materials consumed (eg office paper, fuel).

4.7 Education

- The Trust aims to integrate sustainable development messages into its educational activities including work with schools, community groups and Members.

January 2005