

Environmental Policy

The Environment Centre is a focus for environmental information, education and activity in South West Wales, registered charity no. 1039378. As well as a visitor and education centre, the building houses office space, meeting areas and resources for environmental groups. Working as an environmental charity the Centre recognises the importance of minimising its impact on the environment and enhancing the local environment.

Policy Statement

The Environment Centre will, when possible, minimise adverse effects on the local and global environment, and take action to improve and enhance it. The Environment Centre will encourage its users, partners in projects and contractors to adhere to the relevant aspects of the Environment Centre Environment Policy.

Following from the Environmental Review, the Centre's main considerations are to:

- Increase the use of sustainable transport by staff and volunteers by purchasing a "pool" bike and advertising the bicycle mileage claim.
- Minimise its consumption of gas by installing more thermostats on radiators, draught proofing and having a tighter regime on the boiler timer.
- Minimise its waste by providing more information and training for staff, volunteers and visitors.
- Review objectives and targets annually to ensure a commitment of continual improvement of the charity's environmental performance.
- Comply with the relevant environmental legislation, regulations and other requirements to which the organisation subscribes, and recognise any changes to such requirements.
- Prevent pollution through control procedures and improvement of the Centre's activities.
- Review the Environmental Policy on an annual basis and make any relevant amendments.
- Ensure the Environment Policy is distributed to all members of staff, and made available to all interested parties.

Signed

(Centre Manager)



28th August 2007

The Environment Centre

Environmental Statement

The Environment Centre is a focus for environmental information, education and activity in South West Wales. As an independent Registered Charity no. 1039378, the Centre is primarily funded through grants, donations, a membership scheme, office and room hire and a small coffee shop/gift shop. The building also houses a library, journals and leaflets, an eco-annexe, organic garden and pond, compost demonstration, and organisations with an interest in the environment.

As well as core staff who manage the Environment Centre, the Centre has project officers for schools and community groups who provide talks and workshops on all aspects of the environment, either at the Centre or at the school/group site.

The Environment Centre also employs project workers for Swansea Environmental Education Forum (SEEF), the MOre Green Reuse Recycle Project and Sustainable Swansea, and has recently employed admin workers for the Strategic Recycling Scheme (SRS) and Swansea Community Recycling Alliance Partnership (SCRAP).

Objectives and Targets

The Environment Centre's targets for 2007 – 2008 are:

- (1) Increase the use of sustainable transport by staff and volunteers by purchasing a "pool" bike and advertising the bicycle mileage claim.
- (2) Minimise its consumption of gas by installing more thermostats on radiators, draught proofing and having a tighter regime on the boiler timer.
- (3) Minimise its waste by providing more information and training for staff, volunteers and visitors.

Environmental Performance over the past year

Energy Efficient Boilers

Since 2006 the Centre has reduced its consumption of gas by 24% through the installation of new energy efficient condensing boilers. Instead of one large boiler to heat the main building, the Centre now has two smaller boilers that run according to demand.

Solar Hot Water

In March 2007 the old electric water heater in the staff kitchen was replaced with a solar hot water system that has a temperature monitor by the tap.

Energy Efficient Lighting

With grant funding the Centre has replaced some of the old lights with low energy sensor lights. The lights in the kitchen, library and entrance hall turn on automatically when there is movement, and turn off after a few minutes. This should help to reduce the electric consumption as lights in the entrance hall and kitchen were on for most of the day.

Environmental Cleaning Company

In August 2007 the Centre employed a local environmental cleaning company (Fresh Approach To Ltd) to do the day-to-day cleaning of the Centre. The company has a policy of only using environmentally friendly cleaning products to carry out their work.

Waste and Recycling

Tetra Paks have started to be collected to be recycled at the local civic amenity site. An information poster has been put up for staff, offices and volunteers on how to dispose of different types of waste.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Between 2006 – 2007 the Environment Centre produced 20735kg CO₂ taking into account gas, electric and transport. This was a reduction in CO₂ by 3821kg compared to the previous year.

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Date _____