

Environmental Policy

Mission Statement

Upper Hurst Farm Ltd has a nature-based ethos and we endeavour to lead the way in ecological, ethical and social practices and to deliver environmental benefits.

RESPONSIBILITY

Susan Green is responsible for ensuring that the environmental policy is implemented. However, all employees have a responsibility in their area to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met.

POLICY AIMS

We endeavour to:

- Comply with and exceed all relevant regulatory requirements
- Continually improve and monitor environmental performance
- Continually improve and reduce environmental impacts
- Incorporate environmental factors into business decisions
- Increase employee awareness and training

PAPER

- The use of paper is minimised by using email for 99.9% of all communications
- We buy recycled and recyclable paper products (e.g., toilet rolls)
- We reuse scrap paper for lighting fires
- Paper is separated on-site for recycling

ENERGY AND WATER

- The majority of the lighting is LED and high efficiency light bulbs are used (mostly) when LED lights are not available
- All of our waste water is treated by a large sewage treatment system that uses bacterial action and oxygen to treat the water to an acceptable level before it is sent to a stream that later joins the river Manifold. The solids along with the chemical toilet waste are regularly taken by tanker to a local treatment company. This system is serviced once a year and the solids are removed 2 to 4 times a year. Environmentally friendly cleaning products ('Ecover') are used and this means that the bacterial activity is not compromised.

LANDSCAPE

- A management plan recommended by The Peak District National Park is in place for our indigenous hedgerows in order to encourage biodiversity. We have a 4.5-acre field that is used for dog-walkers and recreation. We also have a

management plan in place to encourage wild flowers to grow in this natural meadow.

- The use of fertiliser, and any poisons for mole control are not permitted

MONITORING AND IMPROVEMENTS

- We will comply with and exceed all relevant regulatory requirements
- We will continually monitor environmental performance, reduce environmental impacts and update this policy once annually in consultation with staff
- We will encourage our suppliers to implement an environmental policy of their own
- Our electricity usage is monitored by a smart meter month by month. The solar panels output is tracked using specialist software and what they produce is compared with their predicted use. We are actively looking at ways of storing excess energy using battery technology.
- Dual flushes are available on all toilets to minimise water
- Lights in the toilet shower block are sensed and come on and off by demand and night lights (minimal) come on when it is dark
- A heat recovery extraction system has been fitted in the toilet shower block and this recovers heat from all of the extracted air thus reducing our carbon footprint even further.
- All heating and hot water is supplied by a biomass boiler which burns EN-A1 grade wood pellets that are sourced in the UK. We will endeavour to identify sources as close as possible in order to reduce delivery miles.
- 100 field-mounted solar panels (close to a hedge to minimise visual impact) have been installed and will be able to supply up to 50% of our electricity requirements. Excess energy that can't be used (when the demand is low) will be firstly fed into an immersion heater (to relieve the biomass boiler) and secondly into the national grid. We are actively looking at storage systems to make better use of the energy.
- Lights and electrical equipment in the office are switched off when not in use. Lights and extraction in the toilet/shower block come on by when a sensor indicates someone is present. They switch off after so many minutes.
- The energy consumption and efficiency of new products is taken into account when purchasing. For example, the freezer in the kitchen area of the toilet shower block is A-rated.

OFFICE SUPPLIES

- We evaluate the environmental impact of any new products before purchasing
- We reuse paper
- We recycle spent ink cartridges

TRANSPORTATION

- We encourage the use of public transport (see 'local information' document)

MAINTENANCE, CLEANING, REFUSE AND TOILETRIES

- All supplies of hand-soaps are environmentally friendly (foam soap)
- All toilet rolls are made of recycled paper
- All black sacks are made from recycled plastic
- Recycling bins are provided for cardboard/paper, aluminium cans and tins, plastics and separate bins for white, green and brown glass. The remainder of the waste goes into a skip and is processed by Peak Waste who have a zero-landfill policy
- We use environmentally cleaning products by 'Ecover' and other environmentally friendly cleaning products. Any other chemicals such as bleach or limescale remover are used only when absolutely necessary.