

1. Introduction

This document sets out the Environmental Policy of the Llangarron Community Association (LCA).

The Trustees and Management Committee of the LCA recognise that the activities of the Association and those of Garron Centre users can impact on the environment through its routine activities, building management and through its influence and effects on the wider community. The LCA aims to protect and actively promote the improvement of the local environment by integrating environmental considerations into management decisions and by promoting sound environmental practice.

2. Policy Aims

The Trustees and Management Committee of the LCA are committed to:

- 2.1 Ensuring compliance with relevant regulatory requirements and environmental laws, in particular the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and The Environment Act 1995.
- 2.2 Following relevant Hereford County Council Guidelines for the disposal and recycling of household and commercial waste, and using the correct recycling containers provided by HCC.
- 2.3 Adopting sound environmental management policies and practices, e.g. heat efficiency, water saving, minimisation of waste and pollution, recycling.
- 2.4 Seeking to promote sound environmental practice with regard to LCA activities.
- 2.5 Ensuring that LCA volunteers, hall users and contractors are familiar with and implement this environmental commitment and its objectives.
- 2.6 Protecting and actively promoting the improvement of the local environment, including the prevention of pollution.
- 2.7 Updating and improving standards on a regular basis taking account of increased understanding and knowledge.

3. Implementation

To achieve the stated policy aims, the LCA Trustees and Management Committee will:

3.1 Waste Materials

Minimise waste through environment-conscious strategic purchasing, reuse of items, or recycling of appropriate materials in a sustainable manner. Where this is impractical, any necessary waste disposal will be carried out in a safe and responsible manner.

In this respect, the LCA will seek to:

- Reduce the production of material waste such as unnecessary packaging.
- Encourage Garron Centre users to minimise waste through the use of permanent (i.e. not disposable) crockery and cutlery and the dedicated storage bins provided for the collection of recyclable materials.
- Maximise the proportion of paper used from sustainable sources and recycled materials.
- Offer electronic communication as an alternative to paper for those suitably equipped.
- Take into account the lifetime costs of materials when repairing or altering the hall.

3.2 Purchasing Policy

Where possible, purchase environmentally sound goods from sustainable sources and seek to purchase from local or regional suppliers in order to maximise input to the local community and minimise carbon emissions from transport.

3.3 Energy & Water

Seek to minimise the use of energy and water consumption, and promote the efficient use of resources by Garron Centre users by:

- Adopting energy-saving measures and equipment where possible, e.g. fitting energy efficient lightbulbs, daylight shutoff and movement sensors to relevant internal and external lights, and dual flush cisterns to the toilets.
- Regular servicing of the heating system.
- Making efficient use of energy, and endeavouring to use the minimum quantities of energy possible in accordance with the safe and efficient operation of its heating, lighting, and general hall equipment.
- Communicating to hirers and volunteer staff the means by which energy may be conserved, e.g. by closing doors.
- Conducting periodic reviews of LCA energy sources, energy using appliances and energy consumption with a view to causing the least environmental impact and eliminating excessive or unnecessary use.
- Using the minimum quantities of water possible during activities and communicating to users and volunteer staff the need to conserve water e.g. by turning taps off after use.

3.4 Pollutants

Minimise, and where possible eliminate, all forms of pollution by:

- Using biodegradable chemicals where practicable.
- Minimising the use of solvents and lead based paints.
- Avoiding pollutants entering the drainage system; notices in the kitchen will remind users not to dispose of unsuitable substances (fats, oils etc.) through the sinks and drains.
- Encouraging users to avoid creating noise and light pollution, especially at night; users will be reminded of their responsibility to the local community within the hire agreement.

3.5 Contractors

- Ensure contractors working on the LCA's behalf are aware of and comply with this environmental policy.
- Assess and seek to minimise the potential adverse environmental impact of any building projects. This will include, where possible, using methods of construction which make best use of resources, designs which result in low maintenance and high energy efficiency, and the use of building materials from sustainable sources such as timber.

3.6 Natural Environment

- Take appropriate opportunities to conserve and enhance the natural environment surrounding the Garron Centre

- Be sensitive to the impact of activities on the local environment
- Maintain the grounds and buildings under its control in an environmentally sensitive way having regard to local wildlife and the preservation of biological diversity.

4. Publication and Promotion of Policy

The LCA Trustees and Management Committee will seek to promote a sense of responsibility and understanding for the environment and participation in environmental issues, by:

- Making this environmental policy publicly available in the Garron Centre and on the Llangarron Life / Garron Centre website.
- Making this policy available to all LCA volunteers and hall users.

All those hiring the hall will be expected to confirm that they are aware of this policy and that their own activities and use of the hall are in conformity with it.

5. Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually.

The LCA Management Committee will monitor, review and where possible improve performance each year by refining this policy, adopting new measures where appropriate and by taking positive action with regard to any instances of non-compliance.

6. Approval

This policy was approved and adopted by the LCA Management Committee on 17th January 2023.