

## **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.

The Centre is primarily funded through grants, donations, a membership scheme, office and room hire, training courses, workshops and a small coffee shop & green shop. The building also houses a library, journals and leaflets, an eco-annexe demonstrating eco-building and renewable energy technology, IT area, organic garden and pond, and organisations connected to environmental conservation.

As an environmental education charity the Centre recognises the importance of minimising its impact and enhancing the local environment, and actively encourages sustainable living.

### **General 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 visitors, customers, staff, volunteers, office users, partners in projects and contractors to adhere to the relevant aspects of the Environment Centre Environment Policy. The Environment Centre will continue to work towards Eco-Centre status.

### **Waste Minimisation Policy**

The Environment Centre will minimise waste by using the principles of Reducing, Re-using, Repairing and Recycling. The whole centre and its visitors are encouraged to:

- Minimise packaging
- Double-side photocopies, printing, and re-use scrap paper
- Repair equipment or furniture when possible, or donate to local recycling projects
- Dispose of waste in the correct recycling or waste bin
- Never use "disposable" cutlery or plates

### **Purchasing Policy**

The Environment Centre will make purchases based on the following principles:

- Necessity
- Value for money, life expectancy & recyclability at end of life (ie. Not just buying the cheapest product)
- Supporting local business
- Purchasing recycled, re-used, sustainably sourced, Organic, ethical and Fairtrade products

**The Centre's main actions for April 2013 - 2014 are to:**

- Create a second Eco-Centre Newsletter
- Make improvements to the permaculture garden including labelling, signage, seating, and encouraging community involvement, through a community garden grant scheme.
- Encourage wildlife in the garden by erecting bird boxes and feeders
- Improving the coffee shop, foyer and environmental information provision through a Capital grant.
- Host a series of environmental workshops and training for adults, schools and teachers.
- Continue to improve energy efficiency in Eastside through the Eastside Fridge Swap.
- Involve and inform the local community about Eco-Centres through events
- Apply for and continue work towards achieving Eco-Centre status.
- Comply with the relevant environmental legislation and regulations.
- Review and update the Environment Policy, Environmental Review and Action Plan on an annual basis.
- Ensure the Environment Policy is on public display.

**Signed**

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**Centre Manager**

