

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Polisi Cynaliadwyaeth Amgylcheddol

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy applies and has relevance to the whole of the Garden inclusive of the farm estate and NNR (taken together as 'the Garden').

The Garden is the first national botanic garden to be created in the UK this century, and a new institution for Wales; a place of international significance, dedicated to conservation, horticulture, science, education and the arts.

The Garden recognises that its activities have a potential environmental impact both positive and negative upon the environment locally, nationally and globally. In addition, the Garden acknowledges its responsibility to meet the needs of the environment currently, without compromising future generations and aims to contribute to Wales' national carbon reduction targets.

2. PURPOSE, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Garden actively strives to manage its activities and resources in ways that are environmentally sustainable now and into the future. The policy also seeks to set out and communicate the Garden's intentions to all its stakeholders including trustees, staff, volunteers, and visitors so that there is clarity about its intentions and the expectations that individuals are expected or asked to support.

Under this policy the Garden is committed to:

- Positively promoting environmental sustainability to all Garden visitors (whatever their age, background and ability) and through all its education and outreach programmes.
- Continuously seek to reduce its carbon footprint.
- Reducing its use of, and reliance on, fossil fuels by generating its own on-site sustainable energy through diverse means, presently particularly including solar and biomass.
- As far as possible using environmentally sensitive means of transport around the site for equipment and goods including, for example, electric buggies.
- Reducing its reliance on external water supply by using on-site boreholes, harvesting rainwater and adopting water conservation measures.
- Seeking to maximise on-site recycling and optimise compost making.
- Reduce its use of chemical sprays producing pollution and environmental damage and replace these wherever possible with organic and biological controls.
- Encouraging and promoting the benefits of biodiversity both within the formal Garden and across Waun Las National Nature Reserve.
- Protecting, and where appropriate increasing, the biodiversity of the site in appropriate ways.

- Complying with, and where possible exceeding, the standards set by all relevant environmental legislation.
- Integrating the principles of environmental sustainability within its policies and practices, specifically in relation to those linked to sustainable procurement of goods and services.
- Promoting and preferring local and sustainable procurement and sourcing.

The Garden's objectives will be implemented through an Environmental Management System, which incorporates all the elements of ISO 14001.

The Garden will routinely review its systems and processes in relation to this policy endeavouring to maintain a continuous cycle of improvement. As a signatory to the Welsh Government Sustainability Charter, the Garden will commit to, and report on, an annual sustainability challenge – sharing best practice and experience with others.

The Garden will communicate this policy and strategy to staff, the public and wider stakeholders to raise awareness to all groups of their own responsibilities and requirements to contribute and commit to wider environmental improvements.

In line with other policies of the Garden, this document is kept under review and may be updated from time-to-time as considered appropriate.