



Sustainability and Environmental Conservation Policy

Foreword

The National Zoological Society of Wales is committed to undertaking and continuing the process of monitoring and adapting aspects of the Zoos operations with a view to continually improving the environmental performance of the Charity through minimising the impact of our operations on the environment.

Waste Management

Legal requirements regarding the disposal of any waste material, including its transport, must be observed at all times, and duty of care must be observed.

Work to reduce the volume of waste going to landfill by reducing, recycling or reusing as many waste materials as possible, including recycling for electronic goods, scrap metal, plastics, paper and cardboard and tins, requesting removal of waste generated by deliveries and composting of gardens and animal waste where appropriate. The Zoos catering concessionaires must work to reduce single use plastic generated on site via their operations. Disposal of chemical waste must be undertaken in line with COSHH recommendations.

Energy

Energy use should be carefully managed and frequently reviewed, with a view to an overall decrease in energy consumption across the whole zoo site.

Low energy LED lighting, motion sensors and timers should be used to reduce energy use through provision of lighting. Insulation of buildings (new and retrofitted), automatically closing doors, energy efficient boilers, thermostats and plastic strips on animal housing can be used to minimise heat loss from buildings. Heat pumps and solar panels are in place in some areas on site and alternative heat sources, renewable energy and energy efficient equipment should be considered for new constructions and appliances. All electrical items should be turned off when not in use, if they do not automatically do so.

Water

Water across site should be conserved, abstracted from the on-site borehole and all water fittings must be fit for purpose and well maintained to prevent wastage. Fittings to reduce water consumption should be used where possible, such as low flush toilets. Waste water and discharge should be channeled and disposed of so to avoid environmental pollution.

Rainwater harvesting should be undertaken across site to provide water for horticulture and use with the bowser.



Pesticides

The use of pesticides, including insecticides and herbicides is targeted and carefully considered on a case-by-case basis. Weeding is undertaken by hand, as a preference and insecticide is used only where damage to plants important to the collection is observed, and applied in a targeted way to ensure use is minimal, where other solutions cannot be established.

Sustainable Procurement

Where possible, the Zoo and its concessionaires must source products with the least environmental impact. The Zoos concessionaires work with the Zoo to ensure all items available from their outlets observe ecolabels such as RSPO or certified sustainable palm oil, Rainforest Alliance and Fairtrade Foundation. Paper and construction materials are FSC assured or harvested locally and sustainably, with low carbon materials investigated as a priority and COSHH substance assessed for their environmental impact. The Zoos gift shop works to source items made from sustainable and recycled materials (Green Leaf Certified) and produced locally, where possible. Sourcing of plants purchased for use in the collection must be carefully considered and in line with the Ethical Acquisition policy.

Travel and Fuel Use

Visitor information regarding public transport options to visit the Zoo are advertised on our website. The Zoo intends to install EV charging points for visitors and staff during construction of the shop extension, currently with council planning.

Staff are encouraged to travel by public transport for work events, wherever possible. The Zoo is expecting delivery of its first agricultural EV for use by Keeping and Grounds teams in summer 2022, which should be used as an alternative to the petrol and diesel fueled vehicles.

Grounds maintenance are encouraged to use and provided with mechanical hand tools to undertake grounds maintenance, so as to avoid the use of petrol fueled tools. Electric tools are also available for use in grounds maintenance, as petrol fueled equipment is phased out.

Education

The Zoo will educate visitors on unsustainable practices and threats to biodiversity, promoting sustainable living and positive behavioural change through formal and informal education at the Zoo, via social media channels and on promotional materials.