



Environmental Policy

This policy applies to management committee members, volunteers and all staff.

Introduction

Dobcross Village Society Ltd seeks to operate in a sustainable and environmentally sound way. As a retailer, our main environmental impacts, through our own operations and the products we sell, are:

- Tackling climate breakdown by reducing our emissions and improving energy efficiency,
- Reducing our impact on the natural world by effective waste management and sustainable use of natural resources.

Responsibility for ensuring that environmental considerations are taken into account ultimately rests with the Management Committee but the day to day responsibility for implementing and monitoring the policy rests with the Dobcross Village Store and Post Office Manager.

All staff and volunteers are required to adhere to this policy.

The policy in practice

Dobcross Village Society Ltd aims to improve its environmental performance in the following 3 areas–

1. Energy (e.g. emissions and efficiency)

- By having a commitment to conserving energy in the shop, adopting practices which reduce energy and sourcing energy from renewable sources.
- Reducing food miles and thus transport emissions by using local produce and suppliers and where possible choosing products with minimum food miles.
- Encouraging customers to use the shop as a delivery hub for online purchases.
- Using stock purchasing and delivery methods which minimise environmental pollution e.g. electric vehicles, deliveries on foot.



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2. Waste (reduction and recycling)

- Reducing waste by adhering to robust reduce, reuse and recycle practices and using refurbished and recycled items where these are available and appropriate.
- Minimising food waste by responding to identified local needs, using good storage practice, checking stock dates and selling short shelf life produce at reduced rates.
- Stocking products with minimal/recyclable packaging and low impact packaging such as 100% recycled and recyclable glass and paper where possible.
- Encouraging regular coffee customers to buy, bring along and use sustainable cups (e.g. bamboo) instead of paper cups for coffee.
- Introducing a refill facility for toiletries and cleaning products cutting down on plastic and employing bulk buying of products.
- Reducing environmental pollution by disposing of waste in an environmentally friendly manner.

3. Use of Natural Resources

- Carrying out refurbishment and replacing of equipment in an environmentally sustainable fashion by using sustainable products, avoiding harmful chemicals, using low/zero VOV paints, energy efficient technologies, low power ratings and environmentally friendly emissions.
- Elimination of plastic carrier items by using paper bags, wicker shopping baskets and selling own brand reuseable organic cotton shopping bags.
- Stocking reuseable food/drink wrappings/containers such as beeswax wraps, silicone covers and bamboo cups.
- Where possible choosing products in glass containers rather than plastic.

Dobcross Village Society Ltd aims to achieve its environmental policy by:-

- Educating and motivating staff and volunteers to work in an environmentally responsible manner and to play a full part in developing new ideas and initiatives to improve environmental management.
- Communicating openly with staff and volunteers about environmental policies and best practice and cooperating with others in the public and private sectors to develop and promote environmentally sound practices.
- Reviewing this policy and its practices every three years to ensure that it complies with current legislation and good practice.



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