

An environmental policy for Marine Cove Gardens **(Reviewed 2018).**

Sedgemoor District Council and the Friends of Marine Cove Gardens Group believe that we have a responsibility to care for and protect the environment in which we operate. We are fully committed to improving environmental performance across all of our business activities, and will encourage our partners and members of the wider community to join us in this effort.

Sedgemoor District Council and the Friends of Marine Cove Gardens Group recognise our key environmental impacts at Marine Cove Gardens to be in the areas of:

1. Energy use
2. Raw material use
3. Waste generation
4. Pollution (- emissions to air/water/ground)
5. Water use
6. Transport
7. Procurement

We will strive to:

- Adopt the highest environmental standards in all areas of operation, meeting and exceeding all relevant legislative requirements;
- Assess our organisational activities and identify areas where we can minimise impacts;
- Minimise waste through careful and efficient use of all materials and energy;
- Purchase sustainable products wherever practicable [e.g. recycled, FSC or low environmental impact products and energy from renewable sources];
- Publicise our environmental position;
- Train employees in good environmental practice and encourage employee involvement in environmental action;
- Reduce risks from environmental, health or safety hazards for employees and others in the vicinity of our operations;
- Adopt an environmentally sound transport strategy;

- Aim to include environmental and ethical considerations in investment decisions where appropriate;
- Assist in developing solutions to environmental problems;
- Regularly assess the environmental impact of all our operations.

Sedgemoor District Council and the Friends of Marine Cove Gardens Group will periodically review performance and publish these results on our website.

How this transfers to the management of Marine Cove Gardens

1. Energy use

FORMS OF ENERGY	PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL OPTIMISATION MEASURES
<p>Electricity – used to light the gardens and to power the water pump and CCTV camera.</p>	<p>Ensure that all appliances are maintained and tested for safety on a regular basis.</p> <p>Ensure that all appliances are the most environmentally-friendly practicable.</p> <p>Assess the potential for using green electricity / generating electricity on-site (eg. solar panels).</p>
<p>Machinery fuel - Petrol/diesel used in gang mowers, strimmers, chainsaws etc.</p>	<p>Ensure that all engines are achieving safe and legal levels of harmful outputs if relevant.</p> <p>Ensure that all operators of machinery are trained to use it efficiently.</p> <p>Ensure that all machinery is running efficiently by regular maintenance.</p> <p>Review frequency of operations requiring machinery regularly.</p> <p>Assess the ability to use more environmentally-friendly fuel such as bio-fuels.</p>

2. Raw material use

FORMS OF RAW MATERIAL USED	PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL OPTIMISATION MEASURES
Wood – used for tree stakes, path boarding, fencing etc.	Use only FSC or low environmental impact wood products unless there are no other alternatives.
Compost – used in the propagation of bedding plants.	Use peat-free composts and plants grown in peat-free composts only, where practicable.
Building materials – used for repair/maintenance of structures.	Where appropriate use environmentally-friendly or recycled materials. If aggregates have to be used then use recycled or secondary aggregates, where practicable.

3. Waste generation

FORMS OF WASTE GENERATION	PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL OPTIMISATION MEASURES
Refuse – from litter bins and scavenging at the Gardens.	Refuse should be separated out for recycling
Horticultural arisings – arisings from pruning and grass management work.	Arisings should be composted, ideally on-site.

4. Pollution (- emissions to air/water/ground)

FORMS OF POLLUTION	PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL OPTIMISATION MEASURES
Internal combustion engine emissions - vehicles, strimmers, chainsaws, gang mowers etc.	Ensure that all machinery is running efficiently by regular maintenance.
Use of chemicals such as paints, pesticides and cleaning products.	Use only low VOC paints where practicable. Assess the use of cleaning products and work with cleaning staff to reduce any excessive use. Do not use pesticides unless there are no other practicable options
Chainsaw chain oil	Use only biodegradable chainsaw chain oil

5. Water use

FORMS OF WATER USE	PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL OPTIMISATION MEASURES
Water for cleaning surfaces and water features – water used for power-cleaning or otherwise of path surfaces and structures and for topping-up the water features.	Water waste should be minimised by ensuring that leaking taps/ponds are mended promptly and users are encouraged to minimise their use of water.
Water for watering plants	Plants that are more drought-tolerant should be used in preference to ones that require significant watering.

6. Transport

FORMS OF TRANSPORT	PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL OPTIMISATION MEASURES
Travel of staff and volunteers to and from the Gardens for business purposes	<p>Encourage staff and volunteers to minimise their journeys by rationalising visits and lift-sharing, using environmentally-friendly forms of transport and promoting energy-efficient driving and vehicles.</p> <p>Ensure that vehicles are serviced regularly and running efficiently.</p> <p>Assess the feasibility of using electric vehicles.</p>
Transport used by visitors to the park	Encourage visitors to the Gardens to come by environmentally-friendly forms of transport such as public transport or bike, for example by providing bike racks.

7. Procurement

FORMS OF PURCHASE	PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL OPTIMISATION MEASURES
Purchase of tools and equipment e.g. bin	Ensure that where environmentally-friendly

bags, plant propagating equipment etc.	options are available that these are purchased unless not practicable to do so
Purchase of electricity and fuel	Assess the potential for purchasing green electricity. Assess the ability to purchase more environmentally-friendly fuels such as bio-fuels.