

GORSLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Reviewed by the Council's Sub-Committee on the 23 March 2015 and approved by Council at the AGM on 11 May 2015.

Gorslas Community Council is committed to minimising the harmful effects of its operations on the environment by means of a programme of continuous improvement.

With the above in mind, the Council will endeavour to adhere to the following Environmental good practice methods:

- Seek to reduce our consumption of materials, re-use where possible and promote recycling and the use of re-cycled materials.
- Seek to dispose of materials in an environmentally sensitive manner.
- Promote and manage energy efficiency in all our operations where possible and to continue to incorporate effective energy efficiency measures.
- Consider and use environmental responsibility as a factor in purchasing decisions.
- Produce an Environmental Purchasing Policy for consideration and guidance in all purchasing decisions.

Purchasing Policy:

As part of the Council's Purchasing Policy and before procuring any products or services the council will undertake the following analysis:

- Is the product or service required?
- Can the product or service be provided locally?
- Can the need be met another way?
- Can the requirement be met by renting or sharing rather than purchasing?
- Is the quantity requested essential?
- Can the product serve any useful purpose after its initial use?

The council will adhere to the view that the best way to help the environment is to minimise consumption.

If it is essential to purchase, the council will consider:

- available alternatives which are less environmentally and socially damaging
- all the phases of a product's lifecycle (production, transportation, maintenance, disposal etc.)
- energy and resource efficiency
- non (or reduced) polluting
- durable, easily upgraded and repairable
- minimum packaging
- reusable and recyclable
- products with widely recognised "seals of approval" which meet certain environmental standards
- value for money – what initially appears cheapest, may not be, long term
- favour suppliers that are committed to environmental improvements.

Purchasing & Environmental Management : Recommendations for :-

Paper and Stationery:

- only use recycled paper or paper with the Forest Stewardship Council logo or aim to use the maximum percentage of recycled content without impairing performance
- chlorine bleached paper is not permitted
- any varnishes used in the paper should be water soluble
- manila envelopes should be used where possible (window envelopes cannot be recycled)
- reuse envelopes, files and folders where possible
- use scrap paper for notepads, write on both sides

Furniture:

- Ask suppliers about their product's origins
- Use Forest Stewardship Council timber and timber products where possible
- Products should not include veneers produced from unsustainable tropical forest
- Check to ensure chipboard does not contain formaldehyde
- Avoid all Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF) items
- Avoid chairs and carpets which included the use of CFC based foams in manufacture
- Products should be biodegradable

- Where possible specify phosphate free detergents
- Use pump sprays rather than aerosols
- Where possible use multi-purpose cleaners
- Do not use toilet blocks containing Para - dichlorobenzene

Domestic Appliances:

- Ask suppliers for energy labelling of the appliances
- Ask suppliers for energy consumption
- Check to see if appliances contain modern energy efficient devices e.g. washing
- Specify CFC/HFC/HCFC free refrigeration systems

Batteries:

- Where portability is not an issue mains electricity should be used
- Use solar powered appliances where possible
- Use Long Life Batteries
- Consider using re-chargeable batteries
- Make sure all batteries are disposed of by the correct method

Horticulture:

- Avoid the use of artificial fertilisers or pesticides. If unavoidable, ensure that contractors (or their employees) employed to maintain shrubs and trees in landscaped areas hold a Certificate of Competence as required by the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986
- Pruning should not be undertaken in spring or summer
- Clear site lines should be maintained
- Any compost or soil improver used is non peat based preferably as locally produced as possible (early winter is a good time to add manure or compost)
- Use water sparingly.

Water management:

- Choose plants for the outdoor area that do not need excessive watering
- Install push taps
- Installed waterless urinals where possible
- Install save-a-flush cistern devices where possible.

Transportation:

- Use locally provided goods and services where possible
- Encourage car sharing where possible

Recycling:

- Use the recycling facility in the village for disposing of aluminium cans, newspaper, bottles and glass
- Provide clearly marked indoor recycle bins for collection of recyclables

Catering:

- Buy Fairtrade' items where possible such as tea, coffee, etc www.fairtrade.org.uk (buying in bulk should cut costs).
- Buy local produce where possible
- Avoid sachets of sugar, milk etc.