

Sustainability and Environmental Policy

Introduction

Greenpower is committed to sustainable development through our educational programme and our working practice. We will comply with (and exceed where practicable) all relevant legislation. This policy sets out the pragmatic ways in which we can help to reconcile growth, environmental protection and social progress.

1.0 Office protocols

1.1 Energy Consumption

Greenpower seeks to reduce the amount of energy¹ used within its premises. We actively encourage participation in good housekeeping with simple measures, such as switching lights and equipment off when not needed, that can have significant impact on energy use.

1.2 Materials Consumption

Avoidable waste of materials is discouraged and the staff of Greenpower will purposely source materials that are more sustainable and refrain from purchasing products derived from non-renewable or harmful materials or with inefficient energy consumption wherever possible. If no cost-effective alternatives can be found, the principles of *reduce, reuse, repair, recycle* will be implemented. All printed material is produced on a minimum of 80% recycled paper.

1.3 Waste Disposal

Greenpower will only use licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of its waste. We will encourage the reuse and repair of products to avoid premature disposal. We follow a strict code of waste segregation and take active steps to ensure that our waste paper, cardboard, computer consumables and glass bottles are recycled.

1.4 Welfare

Greenpower will be a caring and responsible employer, host and neighbour. We care for the welfare of employees, visitors, volunteers, neighbours and other stakeholders by implementing our health and safety policy, offering equal employment opportunities and minimising our production of any nuisance noise, traffic or pollution. We will encourage communication between employees and local communities.

¹ energy consumption is a major contributor to many different environmental problems

2.0 Education, Engineering and the Environment

2.1 Strategy

Greenpower promotes engineering as a rewarding career to anyone aged 9-25, also focusing on sustainable engineering, teamwork and the community. Projects teach young people about energy efficiency, environmental impact and working with limited power.

2.2 Materials

Greenpower actively encourages young people to consider the source from which materials are obtained for their project.

2.3 Environmental control

Young people are encouraged to work beyond the parameters of the engineering challenge when working on their project.

2.4 Transport

Events are held around the country to minimise road miles for participants, with limited Greenpower personnel travelling to each event. Local volunteers are sought for each event. Every effort is made to ensure the minimum numbers of vehicles are used, and Greenpower staff are encouraged to travel to work using methods other than by road.

2.5 Sustainable Transport

Greenpower actively promotes alternative vehicles and power sources at every opportunity.