



Environmental and Sustainability Policy New Wood Trees Ltd

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1. Sustainability Mission Statement

To supply the British market with the highest quality, field grown multi-stem trees whilst lessening the environmental impact of importing large trees from Europe.

New Wood Trees Ltd recognises that the environment is important to our business, our staff and our customers. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and continually improving our environmental performance as an integral part of our business strategy and operating methods, with regular review points. We will encourage our stakeholders to do the same.

We have a responsibility to manage our environmental impacts carefully, including meeting all legal and regulatory requirements. We are committed to managing our activities and estates to promote environmental sustainability, conserve and enhance natural resources, prevent environmental pollution and bring about a continual improvement in our environmental performance.

This policy outlines the measures we will take to embed sustainability into all our functions, identifies methods of delivery and ways of communicating the policy to staff to make them aware of and support best practice procedures.

2. Policy Aims & Objectives

We endeavour to:

- Be considered an example of good practice for the delivery of sustainability in the horticulture sector.
- Strive to exceed all the environmental legislation and regulations relating to our activities.
- Incorporate environmental considerations into our business decisions.
- Increase employee awareness of this policy and provide training to ensure that we meet its requirements.
- Promote sustainability to all stakeholders, including customers, staff, suppliers and visitors.
- Achieve measurable reductions in the Carbon Emissions.

3. Definitions

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development

4. Scope

This Policy applies to all employees, permanent or temporary, of New Wood Trees and includes any agency, or visiting professionals employed to provide services on their behalf.

5. Legal requirements

Carbon Reduction Commitment – Mandatory Energy Tax £16/tCO₂ – organisations using >6,000MWh/year

The Climate Change Act 2008 set legally binding targets for the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 34% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050 (both targets against a 1990 baseline).

The government's Low Carbon Transition Plan, published in July 2009, sets out how the UK will meet the 34 percent cut in emissions on 1990 levels by 2020. In this document, it states that "Every part of Government will need to help drive the transition that is needed to live within the UK's carbon budgets. For the first time, each major government department will have its own carbon budget representing its share of responsibility. From April 2010, it will also include emissions from schools, further and higher education institutions and the NHS."

6. Procedure

New Wood Trees will deliver the aims and objectives of the policy through the following key areas:

Environmental and Sustainability Management:

- Develop and review sustainability targets against appropriate benchmarks and integrate into the company's **Environmental Management System**.
- Monitor energy consumption against past performance.
- Communicate and promote environmental and sustainability procedures, regulations and initiatives at staff inductions and training sessions.
- Encourage and facilitate feedback and suggestions from stakeholders to improve good practice.
- Exchange best practice with industry experts, partners and other organisations.
- Integrate environmental and sustainability principles into our operational procedures and decision-making processes.
- Actively promote sustainable operations with customers and staff and amongst our partners and suppliers.
- Commit to our **Environmental Action Plan**.
- Work towards achieving Carbon Trust Accreditation.

Energy - Carbon Management:

- Develop a **Carbon Management Plan** setting clear targets for carbon reduction, identify initiatives to achieve the target and key stakeholders responsible for delivery.
- Implement working practices to ensure the efficient use of energy within our company.
- Incorporate low carbon technology and renewable energy systems in our buildings and machine procurement.
- Improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings.
- Lights & electrical equipment will be switched off when not in use.
- Aim to be Net Zero Carbon by 2032.

Vehicles & Machinery:

- We will favour more efficient and less-polluting vehicles and transition to electric vehicles as soon as it is feasible to do so.
- Encourage the use of public transport, walking, cycling and vehicle sharing.
- We have researched the feasibility of Bio diesel, and what we've found is not encouraging. According to Forbes, the unaccounted-for environmental problems that directly arise from biofuel use are significant and for these reasons we have decided not to pursue the use of biofuels. They include:
 - Direct conflicts between land for fuels and land for food

- Other land-use changes
- Water scarcity
- Loss of biodiversity
- Nitrogen pollution through the excessive use of fertilizers.

Water:

- We will seek to reduce the amount of water used as much as possible.
- Build new water tanks when necessary to irrigate our container area.
- Install grey water collection system in the office building.
- Manage clean, ground and wastewater efficiently including recovery and recycling opportunities.

Waste Management:

- Minimise waste and reduce consumption through efficient operational use of assets.
- Minimise the environmental impact of waste through appropriate re-use and recycling.
- Measure and monitor waste.
- Segregate waste to achieve zero waste to landfill.
- We will only use licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste which cannot be re-used.
- Develop working practices to reduce waste and prevent pollution.

Procurement:

- In making decisions about the purchasing of goods & services, we will routinely and systematically consider the environmental impact of those materials and their supply chain.
- Where practical, use products, services and suppliers which cause the least harm to the environment.
- Maintain and develop a procurement plans to ensure economic and sustainable purchasing.
- Please refer to our separate Procurement Policy.

Plant Health:

- Plant Health is a huge issue in the horticultural industry and the damage imported pests and diseases are wreaking on our landscape is devastating. New Wood Trees recognises the risk these imported hazards pose to the environment and to UK horticulture and is deeply committed to implementing and maintaining extremely high standards to minimise this risk.
- Aim to be Plant Healthy Certified by the end of 2023.
- Please refer to our separate Biosecurity Policy

Soil Management

- Continue to operate our minimal dig policy to ensure minimal soil disturbance.
- Seek to minimise the use of herbicide and to eventually eliminate it altogether in favour of mechanical weeders which rotavate a thin layer of the topsoil which will allow us to grow our trees organically and free of chemicals.

Promoting carbon sequestration & biodiversity:

- In choosing our stock and managing our land, we will continue to promote carbon sequestration and biodiversity, including through rewilding parts of our land.
- Enhance biodiversity where possible through re-wilding projects and by re-instating hedgerows, woodlands and ponds.

Social Impacts:

- We have gained our Living Wage certification and strive to remunerate our staff with as generous salaries as possible.
- We are in the process of partnering with two charitable causes.

- We endeavour to use local suppliers as much as we possibly can, even if it means paying more.

Our Environmental Management System

We have developed an Environmental Management System (EMS) to ensure we meet the requirements of this policy. Our EMS is accredited by Green Small Business. Our accreditation is maintained through an annual audit carried out independently by Green Small Business.

We will update this policy bi-annually in consultation with staff and other stakeholders where necessary.

7. Organisational Responsibilities

The Environmental and Sustainability Policy will be monitored by the Company Directors and Production Manager and will be reviewed by the whole team on a six-monthly basis.

8. References to related New Wood Trees Ltd policies

- New Wood Trees Environmental Management Plan
- New Wood Trees Procurement Policy
- New Wood Trees Plant Health Policy

9. Contact

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10. Equal Opportunities Statement

This policy and procedure has been assessed against the nine protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act 2010 and no apparent disadvantage to equal opportunities has been determined.

If you have any comments or suggestions in relation to equal opportunities of this policy or procedure please contact the policy holder.

Signed

T Nieuwoudt

Position

Sustainability Director

Date

06-06-22