



## **Environmental Purchasing Policy**

The aim of the Environmental Purchasing Policy is to prompt staff involved in the procurement of goods and services to use environmental responsibility as a factor in their purchasing decisions in line with our environmental policy goals.

### **Environmental Policy**

As a destination Garden centre, we are committed not only to protecting and improving the physical environment around our business and beyond. We are delighted to announce our Silver award for Green tourism in April 2023- We are aiming for Gold in 2024. We don't just say we are green, we are GREEN.

We recognise the impact of our own business activities on the environment in doing this and work to limit the day-to-day impact of our own actions by: Complying with all relevant environmental regulations and legislation, minimising our waste production by promoting reduction of waste, re-use and recycling wherever possible.

We ensure our use of natural resources is sustainable and continuously strive to improve our resource efficiency including our energy and water use with continued focus on investing in new, green technologies.

We aim wherever possible to procure goods and services which are environmentally responsible including their packaging and transport. We support and utilise local services and suppliers wherever practical.

We actively seek suppliers who recognise their impact on the environment and look to positively influence our supply chain with products matching our climate focus.

We educate our teams in best practice surrounding waste management and focus on practical steps to increase environmental awareness. We have a "Sustainability group" who meet to discuss challenges across the business regularly, seeking solutions to improve our future sustainability and achieve targets set for waste reduction.

We want our team and customers to join us on our green journey.

### **Product considerations**

Consider goods which can be manufactured, used and disposed of in an environmentally responsible way.

Give preference, where items are of a similar cost, to those that are manufactured with a high recycled content.

Is the product of sufficient quality to avoid requiring replaced unnecessarily.

Can the item be recycled or reused at end of life.

Consider the energy usage/cost of operating equipment prior to purchase.

Consider 'whole life' costs and impacts when assessing equipment for purchase.

Where possible, choose certified eco-friendly products made from 100% biodegradable, compostable, or post-consumer content and those that do not include caustic or toxic chemicals. Note: When buying

biodegradable products, ensure that there is a facility that can collect these items as biodegradable materials require special processing.

Choose ethical products that support quality working conditions, worker health and safety, and community prosperity. Look for fair trade labels and other ethical certifications.

Avoid plastic products whenever possible as many plastics are non-recyclable and can break down into microplastics that threaten wildlife and human health.

Is the product in recyclable or compostable packaging.

Choose efficient products that conserve natural resources and limit waste.

## **Supplier considerations**

For each new supplier you should carry out an environmental assessment. This should be kept on file and include:

Supplier location- Source locally from credible and certified businesses. Can the product or service be supplied from within Moray.

The supplier environmental policy.

Favour suppliers that are committed to environmental improvement.

Favour suppliers who retain family values at the core of their business.

Has the supplier been recognised for sustainability achievements.

Has the supplier measured their Carbon Footprint.

Does the supplier have an equality, diversity and inclusion policy.

Does the supplier's social media and website promote their sustainability.

Is the product being supplied manufactured in the U.K, done so in a responsible way and promotes fair pay and conditions.

Is the supplier on the Green Network for Business.

How will the product be transported and can it form part of a larger order to reduce transport carbon emissions.

Is the supplier paperless? Order confirmations, EPOS data, Delivery information, invoices and statements should be sent electronically.

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