

Environmental Management Policy 2007/2008



The Authority's purposes are:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the parks' special qualities by the public

While carrying out these purposes it also has a duty to foster the social and economic well-being of the communities within the National Park. In carrying out these purposes and duties, the National Park Authority strives to foster the principles of sustainable development in relation to both wider external facing policies, and internal policies and procedures.

National Park Management Plan

Our commitment to work with others towards environmental objectives for the National Park is set out in the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) and covers the following 12 outcomes:

1. Biodiversity
2. Cultural Heritage
3. Natural Beauty
4. Climate Change and Natural Resources
5. Minerals Extraction
6. Traffic, Travel and Accessibility
7. Recreation
8. Tourism
9. Understanding the National Park
10. People and Communities
11. Communities shaping their own futures
12. Economy

The NPMP acknowledges that Climate Change is occurring and that the Peak District National Park Authority is committed to minimising negative impacts on the environment and encouraging those working with us to do the same. We will work with others to develop appropriate technologies and practices that will help adapt to climate change within the National Park.

This Environmental Policy which should be seen within the context of other environmental issues and within the context of the bigger picture of sustainable development, and not solely as a stand alone document.

The NPMP is also based upon the principles of 'sustainable development' which is about providing a good quality of life for everyone now and for generations to come. Although the idea is simple, the task is substantial. It means meeting four interrelated objectives equally and at the same time, in the UK and the world as a whole

Social - This includes a healthy, safe, clean and diverse environment. Everyone should be able to share in the benefits that accompany a good quality of life. The NPA will seek to work with others to influence this where possible.

Protection of the environment - This includes action to limit global environmental threats such as climate change along with more local pollution problems. We also need to protect and enhance those things that people need or value or that have importance in their own right, such as wildlife, landscapes, village/townscapes and historic buildings of the National Park.

Use of natural resources - This means using non-renewable resources like oil, gas and water wisely and making sure that we encourage their prudent use. We also need to foster the development of alternatives of renewable energy solutions that are appropriate to the protected landscape of the Peak District National Park.

Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment -

We need to ensure that everyone can share in good living standards and job opportunities.

In taking forward the National Park Management Plan, the Authority will act as a community leader in the National Park to raise and maintain a high level of awareness of sustainability issues amongst local residents, businesses, partners and users of the National Park.

National Park Authority Environmental Policy

The National Park Authority's Environmental Policy will set out the way in which we conduct our operations and thus play a key role in working towards sustainable development, because the health and well-being of our environment is important for providing us all with a good quality of life, both today and for the years to come.

In setting outcomes for procurement the Authority has made clear that the importance of sustainability is fully integrated in purchase decisions. The green procurement action plan identifies how careful specifications and tender evaluations, which include environmental impact assessments and will help to reduce the impact of our procurement on the environment.

As a Community Leader we will

- Champion those parts of the National Park Management Plan that contribute to high environmental standards
- Contribute to the plans, policies and programmes of others, especially at a regional, sub-regional and local level, using all opportunities to promote sustainable development and high environmental standards
- Communicate widely our plans, policies and services and promote good practice
- Seek to demonstrate best practice in environmental management on Authority managed property as an example to others

As a service provider in the National Park we will

- Integrate sustainable principles into the planning process both in terms of our policy framework and, where possible, in casework.
- Encourage good environmental practice through our grants and land management agreements
- Use opportunities to spread environmental messages in all of our customer contacts with visitors, users of recreational facilities and through our education and outreach programmes

In our own operations we will

- Work towards a composite understanding of our carbon footprint across all operations and seek to minimise it through specific targets for major contributory elements, especially travel and energy use
- Meet or exceed all relevant UK, European and international environmental legislative and regulatory requirements and agreements
- Increase sustainable transport behaviour through better travel planning, e.g. vehicle fleet management, work/personal travel practices, use of public transport, car sharing, telephone/video conferencing. Based on estimates of 2007/08 activity this provides a CO₂ reduction target of 30% of our current level by 2012.
- Record and log centrally all of our energy use and reduce our energy consumption in all of our workplaces and other facilities by a defined percentage per year encouraging staff to practice good housekeeping measures.
- Use renewable forms of heat/power where possible and when the opportunities arise to purchase 'green' electricity and choose energy efficient installations
- Record and log centrally all of our water use and reduce our water consumption through good housekeeping measures and investigate alternative ways of saving water, reducing leaks and recycling.
- Not knowingly contract with any suppliers who have contravened environmental or animal welfare legislation, and where concerns still remain about their standards. In addition, the Authority will not enter into any contracts with organisations or individuals who are the subject of any enforcement action or other pending investigations from either the Authority or other public agencies, in respect of planning or environmental matters. The Authority also reserves the right to exclude

from consideration for contracts any companies or persons engaging in activities which clearly contravene the Authority's environmental policies. The decision to purchase will take account of whole life costs.

- Achieve the relevant action plans proposed for the government sector by the Sustainable Procurement Task Force, in order to achieve government targets by 2009.
- Favour products and services which are less harmful to the environment, even though this may increase the cost, focusing effort on major product or service procurement.
- Replace the use of environmentally damaging cleaning products with environmentally preferable alternatives that meet basic standards and operational requirements
- Never use minerals or other building products, (including, aggregates, cement, concrete, concrete blocks, powders, asphalt, masonry products, lime products, and building stone) that are from a quarry, or processing/recycling sites that does not benefit from planning permission; is subject to current enforcement action; or, that is non-compliant with the relevant planning permission which results in material harm to the environment;
- Use recycled products where we can, in line with a commitment to minimising the creation of waste, and to prevent pollution and adopt the 4 R's into our everyday practices - reduce, reuse, repair and recycle.
- Aim to reduce the volume of our waste that we are responsible for generating, collecting and increase recycling. Over a 3 year period we aim to reduce our current waste to landfill from all of our facilities through a structured Waste Reduction Action Plan with SMART site by site targets , including a 50% target for Aldern House within 2 years
- Never use waste carriers which do not have an appropriate waste carrier licence and never use waste transfer, recycling, waste deposit or other waste treatment or disposal sites, (including, skip hire, recycling, scrap yards, composting and landfill) that do not have planning permission; are non-compliant with a planning permission which results in material harm to the environment or are subject to current enforcement action; that do not have an appropriate IPPC Permit, or Waste Licence or Environment Agency exemption.
- Reduce our overall paper usage and recycling by using only recycled sources of paper, minimising print and photocopying and always sourcing the best environmental products for publishing documents
- Begin a review in 2008 of the environmental sustainability of our property portfolio and estates and work towards best practice across the whole portfolio as examples of excellence
- Aim to influence and encourage biodiversity through our own activities and partners to meet Biodiversity Action Plans.

Our Environmental Policy. We will

- Monitor progress to continually improve environmental performance and on this basis produce annual objectives and targets, to form part of our policy of continuous improvement in environmental matters
- Educate and train employees, volunteers and members in environmental issues and the environmental effects of their activities
- Review our policy annually

Signed by: *Jim Dixon*

Dated: 7 December 2007

**Chief Executive
Peak District National Park Authority**

Next Review: December 2008