



Colchester Zoo's Green Policy

Colchester Zoo has developed a Green Policy in recognition that all the activities that the Zoo carries out have an impact on the environment. The aim of the policy is to consider the environmental impact of our activities and endeavour to minimise any negative effects and at the same time save wastage and the associated costs of this. Colchester Zoo also recognises its role in providing a positive example to the wider community and to encourage others to participate in more environmentally sensitive activities.

Colchester Zoo will conduct regular reviews of the policy and the environmental targets set, to ensure improvement and allow modification.

Our objectives are:

1. To minimise environmental impact of all operations and improve overall environmental performance, through improving energy efficiency, reducing waste and resource use, raising awareness and encouraging community participation.
2. To implement more environmentally-responsible procedures, with consideration of the economic viability of the operation.
3. To comply with environmental legislation and regulations.

The objectives shall be achieved through implementing and maintaining strategies, which will be subject to regular review of operation, to ensure compliance with the policy and to continue to improve environmental performance.

Section A: Energy efficiency and building design

Our objectives are:

1. To reduce energy used.
2. To introduce energy efficiency measures and use energy efficient lighting, heating and other equipment when possible.
3. To encourage and promote the use of energy from renewable / sustainable sources.
4. To incorporate energy efficient systems in new buildings, and when redeveloping old buildings, where possible.
5. To increase efforts to use materials from sustainable and environmentally-sensitive sources.

This will be achieved by:

- a. Switching off lighting and heating when not required.
- b. Purchasing equipment that has energy saving features.
- c. Increasing the proportion of energy used from renewable / sustainable sources.
- d. Installing energy saving technologies and fixtures in new buildings and when redeveloping old buildings.
- e. Using reusable materials for new constructions and renovations.
- f. Increasing the use of resource-conserving materials and equipments when possible, such as recycled products, FSC products, avoiding tropical hardwoods.

Section B: Water conservation

Our objectives are:

1. To reduce use and wastage of clean water.
2. To increase reuse and recycling of grey water.

This will be achieved by:

- a. Using a water recycling plant to clean and reuse waste water.
- b. Collecting rainwater, e.g. in water butts on roofs.
- c. Cleaning and reusing water from pools, e.g. using a reed bed system.
- d. Using grey water for hosing down exhibits, irrigation and toilet flushing.
- e. Installing water efficient systems.
- f. Repairing leaks and turn off unnecessary appliances and flush systems.

Section C: Waste management

Our objectives are:

1. To reduce waste production and packaging, where possible.
2. To increase use of recyclable resources.
3. To reuse and recycle waste, where possible.
4. To minimise the use of materials that are harmful to the environment.

This will be achieved by:

- a. Reducing waste going to landfill sites or being incinerated.
- b. Reducing paper consumption through use of electronic communication and use of both side of paper.
- c. Reducing packaging and waste through communication with suppliers.
- d. Returning packaging to suppliers / manufacturers.
- e. Decreasing or eliminating use of items, such as plastic cutlery and polystyrene products, and individual packs of condiments.
- f. Increasing the use of rechargeable batteries.

- g. Using recycled paper for promotional publications.
- h. Using items such as cardboard boxes, shredded paper, plastic bottles, newspaper and used clothing for enrichment and husbandry.
- i. Recycling items that cannot be reused, where possible.
- j. Raising funds for conservation initiatives through recycling items where applicable
- k. Reusing organic waste where applicable for compost or products, such as Zoo Poo.
- l. Using compost or other products on site, selling them on site or distributing them to local companies.
- m. Increasing the proportion of ecological feed used.
- n. Increasing the use of environmentally-sensitive / organic products.

Section D: Purchasing, sponsorship and investment

Our objectives are:

- 1. To encourage investment in environmentally ethical companies and products.
- 2. To consider environmental and ethical policies of companies providing funds and services.

This will be achieved by:

- a. Increasing the use of recycled / recyclable materials and encourage reduced packaging.
- b. Increasing the use, promotion and availability of Fair trade supplier and products.
- c. Increasing the use and promotion of more environmentally-sensitive products, such as organic products, chlorine-free paper and teabags.
- d. Requesting a copy of suppliers', sponsors' and other companies' environmental policy.
- e. Encouraging suppliers and contractors to show consideration of environment, e.g. reducing packaging, responsible resource use, appropriate disposal systems.
- f. Increasing purchasing from local suppliers.

Section E: Transport

Our objectives are:

- 1. To encourage staff and visitors to reduce environmental impacts of their travel habits.

This will be achieved by:

- a. Encouraging reduction of private vehicle use by staff, through promotion of car-share, cycling and subsidised bus / train transport.
- b. Encouraging reduction of private vehicle use by visitors..
- c. Replacing company vehicles (and tools) with more environmentally friendly models, with high fuel economy and low emissions.
- d. Utilising public transport for Zoo business, where possible.
- e. Increasing use of local suppliers.

Section F: Wildlife habitat

Our objectives are:

- 1. To enhance Zoo gardens to encourage local wildlife.
- 2. To develop and support initiatives that benefit wildlife, both on a local and a global level.

This will be achieved by:

- a. Encouraging local wildlife in Zoo, through providing areas, such as wilderness gardens.
- b. Planting trees to offset carbon dioxide emissions and therefore, increase involvement in preventing climate change.
- c. Using products which are less damaging to wildlife.
- d. Highlighting local species to Zoo visitors.

- e. Providing positive green gardening advice to visitors.
- f. Increasing involvement in initiatives promoting the protection and conservation of wildlife locally and abroad.
- g. Developing programmes to enhance areas for wildlife, both locally and globally, such as converting wasteland or farmland into areas for wildlife.
- h. Participating in and supporting environmentally-sensitive initiatives both in the UK and abroad, e.g. through Action for the Wild.

Section G: Training, awareness and participation

Our objectives are:

- 1. To encourage good environmental practice among staff, visitors and the wider community.
- 2. To increase participation in environmentally-sensitive initiatives.

This will be achieved by:

- a. Encouraging staff to work in a manner compatible with the environmental policy and its objectives.
- b. Training staff on the implications of the green policy and provide information on how to act in an environmentally-responsible way.
- c. Involving staff in improving operations.
- d. Providing information to staff about more environmentally-friendly practices in the home and other areas of their lifestyle.
- e. Providing facilities within the Zoo to encourage green practices by staff and visitors.
- f. Educating communities on green activities and assist communities to undertake similar initiatives at home.
- g. Encouraging public participation in specific green schemes, such as planting trees, monitoring local wildlife.
- h. Using educational displays to raise awareness of environmentally-responsible practices and encourage participation, e.g. focusing on water conservation and FSC wood products.
- i. Providing ideas and advice to visitors, such as top tips on how to 'go green'.
- j. Publicising Zoo's green policy and its objectives.
- k. Expanding involvement in green initiatives within the local community.