

PORT SUNLIGHT VILLAGE TRUST

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Policy Sponsor:	Director of Heritage
Approving Body:	Board of Trustees
Date Approved:	July 2011
Date of Last Review:	July 2017
Date of Next Review:	July 2019

Introduction

Port Sunlight Village Trust (PSVT) is committed to sustainability and actively strives to be amongst the best performing UK charities in respect of our impact on the environment. Sustainability integrates environmental, social and economic factors to ensure a better quality of life for everyone now and for generations to come.

Statement of Intent

PSVT are committed to reducing our environmental impact year on year by improving the environmental performance of our activities, reducing the impacts to the environment from all areas of our operation, and championing biodiversity and sustainability as part of our public programmes and our management of the natural and designed heritage in our care.

This policy describes how we will achieve our aims, taking into consideration all other factors including impact on the heritage character of the conservation area, cost and on-going maintenance requirements, fire safety, ventilation, electrical safety and technical issues.

The Policy

Landscape

All decisions and actions which affect the landscape (including maintenance, physical intervention or change of land-use) should be sustainable and enhance biodiversity. PSVT will improve its understanding of the current and potential biodiversity for the conservation area and adjoining areas. We will continue and enhance current strategies to improve biodiversity and to protect habitats including: provision of overwintering shelters for bees, provision and maintenance of bird boxes, hedge cutting schedules, introduction of tall grass or wildflower meadows and natural deterrents for pests.

PSVT will comply with all legislation regarding the use of inorganic herbicides and pesticides. Where inorganic treatments are permitted and required, their use will be restricted and justified.

Fuel and Power

It is PSVT policy to work to improve the energy efficiency of the heritage buildings in its care as far as is reasonably practicable without harm to the character of the sites or increasing risk to the long term deterioration of the sites. PSVT will work to:

- Repair rather than replace (to conserve embodied energy and to keep material out of landfill);
- Monitor energy consumption;
- Implement strategies, buy energy efficient goods and promote behavioural changes to reduce energy use

- Assess options for and appropriateness of buying in renewable energy (off-site) from local providers;
- Reduce heat gain and loss through thermal elements;
- Provide building services which are energy efficient and have responsive and effective controls;
- Commission fixed building services to ensure they are efficiently and appropriately set and used; and
- Educate residents and visitors about the benefits of energy efficient and responsive building services.

Water

Clean water is a finite resource. It is PSVT's policy to:

- Use water saving taps and appliances to minimise consumption of mains supplied water;
- Promote behavioural changes to conserve water; and
- Promote use of grey water cisterns to recapture rainwater for use in gardens and other non-potable uses.

Procurement

PSVT make procurement decisions with a bias towards local and eco-friendly suppliers and products. PSVT buys:

- The most energy efficient electrical products that we can;
- Products made from recycled materials wherever this is practical and at reasonable cost;
- Products that can be recycled after use whenever practicable;
- From local sources to support the local economy and reduce the need to transport goods;
- Printed materials that use FSC approved paper from responsible sources;
- Environmentally friendly cleaning, restoration and landscape materials.

New Work

New work commissioned by PSVT will comply with The Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 and Part L of Building Regulations: Conservation of Fuel and Power.

Restoration and Refurbishment

PSVT will promote the designed and embedded environmental advantages of its heritage buildings and landscapes while at the same time recognize that it will not always be possible to achieve the highest standards of environmental sustainability due to the historic character and performance requirements of these assets.

PSVT will:

- Make every effort to repair existing architectural features and fittings rather than replace them.
- Use durable, renewable and ecologically-friendly natural materials in repair, refurbishment and new work.
- Recondition and use salvaged goods and fittings whenever possible.
- Promote and encourage strategies to maximize designed ventilation, natural lighting, thermal gain and movement of moisture through walls.
- Make provisions to enable or improve the fabric of the heritage building to breathe to control moisture and to address potential long-term decay problems.
- Encourage a whole building strategy towards thermal retrofit.

Education

Education is at the heart of PSVT's mission as a charity and we seize the opportunities provided by the village to inform our visitors, residents, other village businesses and attractions, stakeholders, local schools, contractors, staff and volunteers about the importance of protecting the environment and sustainability.

Support for other 'Green' organisations

Where possible we work with other organisations that have a similar approach to the environment and we encourage our own clients to use third-party services that are also eco-friendly.

Waste

PSVT has a bias towards repair and reuse. When this is not possible, PSVT recycles as much of its waste as possible.

Travel

PSVT encourage visitors and staff to travel to the village by public transport, on foot or by bicycle. Our landscape staff use predominantly electric vehicles to do their jobs and we offer a bike hire facility in the summer months.

Compliance

It is PSVT's policy to comply with all legal requirements pertaining to environmental protection and to exceed such standards whenever practicable.

Communication

We communicate our commitment to sustainability through our public programmes, and marketing and PR activity.

Equality and Diversity

Port Sunlight Village Trust is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. We treat everyone fairly according to their needs, regardless of their race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital or civil partnership status, age, disability or pregnancy and maternity status.

To be read in conjunction with:

- Landscape Management Policy
- Built Heritage Policy

Contacting Us:

If you would like to contact us to discuss this policy or anything else, the best way to do this is by calling our main office on 0151 644 4800, we will be more than happy to assist you.

You may want to contact us in writing, our address is:

Port Sunlight Village Trust
23 King George's Drive
Port Sunlight
Wirral
CH62 5DX

If you prefer, you can contact us via email: admin@portsunlightvillage.com or you can speak to a member of our team in person by visiting us at our office.