



Hale Community Centre

Environmental Policy

Hale Community Centre's Board of Trustees is committed to protecting and actively promoting the improvement of the local environment.

The Board of Trustees will ensure that environmental priorities are integrated into the decisions it takes on all its services and will seek to:

- 1) Make the most efficient use of energy. It will endeavor to use the minimum quantities of energy possible in accordance with the safe and efficient operation of its heating, lighting, plant, and machinery. It will from time to time review its energy sources, energy using appliances and energy efficiency with a view to causing the least environmental impact. It will monitor consumption and eliminate excessive or unnecessary use. It will communicate to hirers, employees, consultants, contractors, and volunteers how energy may be conserved, e.g., closing doors.
- 2) Encourage those using the Community Centre to walk, cycle and use public or communal transport as alternatives to the private car. It will seek to provide safe cycle/buggy storage and information about public transport on publicity materials.
- 3) Minimise and where possible eliminate all forms of pollution, using biodegradable chemicals where possible, and minimising use of solvents and lead-based paints. Users will be encouraged to avoid creating noise and light pollution, especially at night.
- 4) Use the minimum quantities of water possible in accordance with its activities and ensure that the water it uses is both supplied and disposed of, in the purest condition possible, meeting statutory requirements. It will reduce leakage and eliminate excessive or unnecessary use, e.g., through avoiding unnecessary flushing of urinals when the Community Centre is not in use. It will communicate to users, employees, consultants, contractors and volunteers the need to conserve water e.g., turning taps off after use.
- 5) Avoid waste and encourage the appropriate conservation, re-use, and recycling of resources. It will re-use and recycle materials as far as possible and, if this is impractical, disposal by a means which will have the least impact on the environment and conforms to statutory requirements. It will encourage users, employees, consultants, contractors, and volunteers to minimise waste, including the provision of separate disposal facilities for recycling glass, plastic, tins, and cardboard/paper.

- 6) It will ensure that the potential environmental impact of any building projects will be assessed and minimised. This will include, where possible, methods of construction which make best use of resources; designs which result in minimal maintenance and high energy efficiency and the use of building materials from sustainable sources such as timber. It will encourage hirers, employees, consultants, contractors, and volunteers to use and operate the building correctly to conserve energy and minimise waste.
- 7) Promote a sense of responsibility and understanding for the environment and participation in environmental issues, by raising user, employee, consultant, contractor, and volunteer awareness, by information provision and open consultation with the local community.
- 8) It will seek, where possible, to purchase from local or regional suppliers, to maximise input to the local community and minimise carbon emissions from transport.
- 9) It will work to enhance its outside space where feasible to improve biodiversity (e.g., planting trees/flowers/shrubs to provide pollen/berries/fruit for wildlife, providing bird boxes/hedging for nesting birds, giving a small area over to run wild and log piles for bugs.
- 10) Encourage Hirers to think about the resources they use and avoid single use plastics and food waste.
- 11) Protect the health and well-being of all employees, consultants, contractors, volunteers, and visitors and improve and safeguard the quality of Hale Community Centre.
- 12) In accordance with the **Hale Community Centre's Environmental Sustainability Strategy & Action Plan** (dated Feb 2021) monitor, review and where possible improve performance each year with positive action on any areas of non-compliance.