

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST – ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Devon Wildlife Trust was established as a registered charity in 1962. It is the only organisation concerned with all aspects of wildlife conservation in Devon. With nature reserves throughout the county, DWT is closely involved in land and marine management, surveying, policy formulation and education.

Despite existing to promote and enhance Devon's natural environment and to fight the effects of climate change, DWT is also a major landholder and operates on a significant scale in terms of property, human resources, energy consumption and vehicle use. Whilst these elements are essential for the effective running of the charity, and thereby adding benefit to the environment; DWT acknowledges that these resources also come at a high environmental price.

In 2019 DWT declared its response to the climate emergency by pledging to become a net zero carbon organisation by 2030.

Alongside the ambition to become net zero by 2030, DWT sets clear objectives to minimise any additional impacts arising through its work. To meet these objectives and reduce its impact on the environment, DWT has implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS) which develops objectives and targets to enable continual improvement in environmental performance whilst minimising environmental harm.

DWT reviews this environmental policy annually and conducts regular audits of its environmental performance. The Directors have overall responsibility for all environmental matters. The Directors and Trustees give their full support to the implementation of this policy.

Each site owned or operated by DWT will strive to use the best available management techniques and will allocate the resources required to achieve our goals and to fulfil the following twelve targets:

1. Eliminate Carbon

We will calculate our Carbon Footprint annually and have committed to becoming net zero carbon by 2030



2. Educate and Train

We will encourage and empower all our staff to work in a manner that minimises environmental harm and carbon release. We will involve and support our staff in this decision making process.



3. Manage Property

We operate energy efficient buildings, maintained to the highest environmental standards. Any new builds will meet specified and approved environmental criteria



4. Land holdings

We will ensure that carbon sequestration potential and emissions from management techniques are considered at all times when acquiring and maintaining land holdings.



5. Use water responsibly

We recognise that water is an increasingly scarce resource which uses significant amounts of energy in its treatment. In all its activities, DWT will aim to minimise its use of treated water



6. Conserve energy

We will aim to equip each DWT property with at least one renewable energy scheme. DWT will only procure energy from companies that either generate their own electricity directly, or who buy only from those who do



7. Minimise the impact of transport

DWT will reduce the need for vehicle use wherever possible both in business use and commuting. Any new vehicles we purchase will be either electric or hybrid*



* Subject to operational requirements

8. Control Waste

We will minimise waste to landfill by reusing materials and recycling where possible. We will prioritise products with little or no packaging and actively seek to eliminate single use plastics.



9. Communicate

We will communicate our journey to net zero carbon and this environmental policy to all those who have an interest in our work, including staff, volunteers, visitors, trustees, suppliers, contractors and other organisations.



10. Pollution

We will prevent pollution and monitor the impacts our operations have on the environment. We will ensure that the appropriate emergency measures and controls are put in place should pollution arise



11. Monitor and evaluate

We will review all our activities, products and services regularly to evaluate their impact. We will encourage contractors & suppliers to take a responsible attitude towards the environment



12. Comply with legislation

We will comply with all current legislation and other standards relevant to the work of DWT. We will continually monitor and update our practices to comply with changes in legislation



Last reviewed August 2025