

## **ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

**TSL believes that the long term care of the natural environment and the sustainability of natural, social and economic systems should help to guide its work as an educational charity, and be given high priority when making organisational decisions.**

**TSL will therefore endeavour to manage its activities in a sustainable manner using techniques, products and approaches that have minimal negative environmental impacts, consistent with the safe and effective operation of its work.**

**TSL will also encourage, advise and support its visitors and those using its services to conduct themselves and their organisations in a similar manner, providing environmental and sustainability guidance and assistance as appropriate.**

### **Aims**

**TSL aims to continuously improve its environmental performance by:**

- conserving fuel, energy, water, wood, paper and other resources, particularly those which are scarce or non-renewable
- reducing waste through re-using and recycling and by using refurbished and recycled products and materials where available
- ensuring wherever possible that procured goods derive from sustainable sources, including timber, plants, animal foods and retail items
- ensuring wherever possible that our buildings are designed, constructed and managed to achieve a high standard of environmental performance
- avoiding wherever possible the use of ozone depleting substances and minimising the release of greenhouse gases, volatile organic compounds, vehicle emissions and other substances damaging to health and the environment
- educating, training and motivating our staff to work in an environmentally responsible manner and to share in the development and ownership of new environmental initiatives
- educating and encouraging our visitors to make sustainable lifestyle decisions
- developing and maintaining effective systems to monitor, measure and assess our resource use and progress in achieving our environmental aims

### **Objectives**

**To meet these aims, TSL has set itself the following objectives:**

#### **Energy**

- Use renewable energy and technology wherever possible
- Seek energy savings in the heating and insulation of our facilities, including our greenhouses

- Use low energy, long-life light bulbs
- Buy energy efficient value-for-money equipment
- Use power save buttons on equipment (e.g. photocopier, printers)
- Turn off computer screens when not in use
- Use rechargeable batteries

### **Water**

- Avoid wasteful use of water
- Collect rainwater for watering plants in the greenhouses
- Wherever possible conserve water in toilet and kitchen areas

### **Paper**

- Minimise printing and packaging
- Use digital rather than printed material if possible
- Use recycled paper, or paper from sustainable sources if recycled paper is not available
- Photocopy onto both sides of paper
- Re-use paper and envelopes
- Recycle waste paper and envelopes

### **Chemicals**

- Minimise the use of all harmful chemicals in the greenhouses
- Use biological pest control in the greenhouses
- Exercise care in handling toner cartridges and return them for recycling
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning materials

### **Food**

- Use reusable crockery and cutlery
- Encourage staff to bring their lunch in reusable containers
- Favour food suppliers who are local and use low amounts of packaging
- Avoid palm oil use if possible

### **Transport**

- Promote and use public transport wherever possible
- Encourage cycle use and walking
- Arrange outside meetings at venues accessible by public transport

### **Suppliers**

- Favour local suppliers with sustainable products and strong sustainability track records

### **Other**

- Use seeds, plants, fertilisers and compost from sustainable sources
- Avoid the use of wild-caught animals, particularly those from threatened habitats
- Build awareness of the linkages between human lifestyles and threatened ecosystems like tropical rainforests
- Educate the public about more sustainable lifestyles and consumption patterns
- Encourage visitors, suppliers and other associates to adopt proactive steps to reduce their negative impact on the environment
- Use materials from sustainable sources
- Invest in ethical funds where possible

TSL's Environmental Policy is supported by its Board of Trustees. Overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Executive Director, with all staff being responsible for ensuring that the policy is implemented in their own areas of work.