

Great Western Society Limited

Didcot Railway Centre

Environmental Policy – Issue 4, July 2017

Our Vision is to recreate the golden age of the Great Western Railway.

Our Mission is:

- To be a nationally accredited independent organisation
- To develop and maintain Didcot Railway Centre as a working museum dedicated to the Great Western Railway
- To provide suitable facilities to demonstrate restoration and maintenance of the Collection
- To be open to the public for the enjoyment, benefit and education of the community.

Our challenge is to become a more commercially orientated organisation in order to achieve the Vision.

The policy

The Great Western Society Limited has adopted this policy to show its commitment to complying with the environmental legislation and regulations that apply to its operations.

We recognise that in our day-to-day operations we impact on the environment in a number of ways and we wish to manage the potentially harmful effects of such activity wherever and whenever practicable and viable to do so. We are committed to being a responsible member of the community.

The principles of this policy are:

- To encouraging our visitors, volunteers and staff to recycle as much of their waste as practicable
- Encouraging, in so far as practicable, efficient use of natural resources
- Protecting our flora and fauna
- Encouraging energy conservation
- Contributing to the development of the local Didcot economy

We will do this in our day to day operations and project work in the following ways.

Our impact on climate change and / energy efficiency

- Turn off electrical equipment that is not in use
- Install energy saving lighting
- Only use as much water as we need
- Increase use of solar power

Noise and nuisance

- Use the whistle only when operationally necessary
- Use the noise meter to ensure we minimise engine noise
- Avoid black smoke as far as possible
- Keep equipment regularly serviced
- Switch engines off when not in use

- Store fuels and chemicals appropriately
- Damp down coal and ash to avoid dust

Purchasing

When making purchasing decisions, we will endeavour to purchase goods and services with the best environmental performance.

Storage, drainage and spillages

- We will ensure that hazardous substances are stored safely and securely and that appropriate spills kits are maintained.
- We will have in place an environmental emergency plan and ensure that relevant GWS staff and volunteers are aware of the plan and have access to control measures.

Waste Disposal and Recycling

We aim to ensure that all waste is recycled or if unrecyclable, disposed of in accordance with statutory legislation.

We have provided recycling facilities for our visitors and staff.

We compost the appropriate food waste from our kitchen and use on our gardens for compost.

We will use approved contractors for disposal of recycled and non-recyclable materials, including electrical equipment.

Hazardous waste

We segregate hazardous waste and dispose of as appropriate.

Flora and fauna

- We use approved contractors for environmental control.
- We deal with invasive weeds and diseases in line with Environment Agency guidelines.

Environmental champion

We have designated Ann Middleton as our Environmental Champion.

Review

This policy was reviewed by the Didcot Railway Centre Committee on 18 May 2017 and approved by GWS Board on 1 July 2017. The policy will be monitored and reviewed biennially.

Ann Middleton
Issue 4
July 2017