

Environmental Sustainability Policy

New Mills and District Volunteer Centre (NMVC) works to support the people of New Mills and the surrounding area through community and voluntary activities; responding to need and filling gaps within local provision. We recognise the importance of sustainability and environmental protection within all our activities.

NMVC is committed to operating its business responsibly, and in doing so has adopted a range of measures which minimise negative impacts on the natural environment and maximise the sustainability of our operations.

NMVC seeks to prevent pollution during its activities, to comply with all applicable legislation, regulations and other requirements, and to maintain good relations with all regulatory bodies. As part of our commitment to working sustainably, NMVC has developed the following objectives, which reflect its most significant environmental aspects:

1. To ensure that all recycling methods available within the office are utilised (composting materials such as teabags, and dry recycling such as waste-paper, cartons, clear plastics, cans, bottles etc) and that these recyclable materials are not mixed in with general waste.
2. To ensure that gas and electricity is used responsibly within NMVC's office, and that we do not waste energy and money.
3. To reduce the greenhouse gas emissions arising from the use of vehicles as part of NMVC's activities by ensuring that staff and volunteers car share where appropriate, there are no unnecessary trips and walk to meeting held locally where possible.
4. To reduce the environmental impact associated with the use of contractors by encouraging all contractors to work sustainably.
5. To ensure that water is not wasted on the premises and is used responsibly.
6. To increase awareness amongst staff/volunteers on environmental sustainability and wider community issues.
7. To consider environmental sustainability within procurement and purchasing activities.
8. We will seek to explore opportunities to support the protection of the environment and its resources within our project bids and applications, and to consider how we can use our strategy and community spirit to maintain our local environment for future generations.

In order to achieve its aims, NMVC will adopt good working practices which will include:

- The minimisation of material waste, we will encourage people to reduce printing and print on both sides where possible.
- Providing recycling points in the office and clear signage highlighting the recycling bins.
- Turning lights off in unused areas & consider if lights are needed on in the office area or can natural light be used.
- Monthly monitoring of Gas and Electricity usage to ensure energy is not being wasted.
- Keeping the staff informed of energy usage and methods for saving.
- Ensuring leaking taps are repaired in a timely fashion and taps are not left on.
- Promoting the use of recyclable and renewable materials in all our purchases.
- Reducing and/or limiting the production of pollutants to water, through the purchase of more environmentally friendly products.
- Ensuring contractors have approved methods of removing waste from site & recycling where possible.
- Minimising risks to people and the environment through risk assessment and risk management activities.

This Policy is communicated to all employees, suppliers and sub-contractors and is made available to the public.