

Environmental Policy

Community Orchard Greenside

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Policy Date: July 2024

1. Our Commitment

Community Orchard Greenside is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment through the creation and ongoing care of a sustainable community orchard and green space. We recognise that local action plays an important role in responding to the climate and ecological crises, and we aim to ensure that all our activities contribute positively to environmental health, biodiversity, and community wellbeing.

This policy guides the environmental management of the orchard site, our events, volunteer activities, and the use of Greenside Park Pavilion.

2. Our Environmental Aims

- Transform the former bowling green into a thriving, biodiverse community orchard
- Improve local wildlife habitats and encourage biodiversity
- Promote sustainable food growing and local food resilience
- Reduce our environmental footprint in all operations
- Use the orchard as a space for environmental education and climate awareness
- Inspire the Greenside community to adopt more sustainable lifestyles

3. Biodiversity & Habitat Enhancement

We will:

- Plant a diverse range of fruit trees, native plants, hedgerows, and wildflowers
- Avoid the use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilisers wherever possible
- Create and maintain habitats such as log piles, insect hotels, bird boxes, and pollinator-friendly planting

- Manage grass and green spaces in ways that support insects and ground-nesting wildlife
- Monitor and review planting and land management practices to improve ecological value over time

4. Sustainable Land Management

- Use peat-free compost only
- Enrich soil health through composting, mulching, and organic matter
- Encourage natural pest control methods and companion planting
- Minimise soil disturbance to protect soil ecosystems
- Avoid unnecessary machinery use to reduce emissions and soil compaction

5. Climate Action & Carbon Reduction

- Keep the use of fossil fuels to a minimum in orchard management
- Encourage walking, cycling, and car sharing to events where possible
- Use hand tools and low-impact equipment whenever feasible
- Plant and maintain trees that contribute to carbon sequestration
- Raise awareness of climate-friendly practices through events and educational activities

6. Waste Reduction & Resource Use

- Follow the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Avoid single-use plastics wherever possible
- Reuse materials in orchard construction and maintenance (e.g., reclaimed wood)
- Provide clearly labelled recycling and waste facilities during events
- Compost green waste generated on site
- Use water responsibly and explore water-saving practices such as mulching and water butts

7. Sustainable Events & Pavilion Use

As we run at least four community events per year and hire out the pavilion, we will:

- Encourage event organisers and pavilion users to minimise waste and recycle
- Promote the use of reusable cups, plates, and cutlery
- Discourage single-use plastic decorations and materials
- Ensure waste is disposed of responsibly after all events
- Include environmental awareness and education where appropriate during community activities

8. Education & Community Engagement

- Provide learning opportunities about fruit growing, wildlife, and sustainable gardening
- Host workshops, talks, and volunteer days focused on environmental skills
- Work with local schools, groups, and organisations to promote environmental awareness
- Share knowledge about climate action and sustainable living through our events and online platforms

9. Partnerships & Local Collaboration

- Source materials and services locally where possible
- Share knowledge and resources that support sustainability
- Develop joint initiatives that benefit both the community and the environment

10. Volunteers & Environmental Responsibility

- Provide guidance on environmentally friendly gardening and land management
- Promote safe, sustainable working practices
- Encourage volunteers to share ideas that improve our environmental impact

11. Monitoring & Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Community Orchard Greenside committee to ensure it remains relevant, effective, and aligned with best environmental practice and community needs.

Approved by: Community Orchard Greenside Committee

Review Date: July 2025