

APPENDIX 1

Peak District National Park Authority

Environmental Management Policy

Caring for the environment is at the heart of what we do; good management of the National Park and our operations is very important to us. This policy covers the environmental impacts which arise as a result of our work i.e. the energy and water we use within our buildings, travel undertaken as a result of business activities, the waste we produce and collect, goods and service we purchase and the management of the land for which we are directly responsible. These areas of activity result in what we call our 'operational impacts' and this policy sets out how we are working to reduce them.

Alongside our direct impacts, we also recognise that as a community leader we can have a significant impact upon the people who live and work within the Park. We will encourage all parts of our local communities to commit to action to improve their environmental performance by:

- Promoting our plans, policies and practices as widely as possible.
- Encouraging the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change through our Climate Change Action Plan and by contributing to the plans of others.
- Demonstrating and promoting good practice within our own operations.

Through the provision of services we can influence and change the behaviour of others. We will work to integrate sustainable principles within our planning process, grant schemes and our work with land managers, businesses and communities. We will also utilise our communications to promote good environmental practice to residents and visitors to the Park and through our educational and outreach programmes.

We have recognised our key areas of operational impact and aim to achieve the following in each.

1. Manage our operations so that the aims of this policy are met by:

- Meeting all legislative requirements as an absolute minimum standard.
- Monitoring our progress by collecting accurate data and reporting this publically (our annual environmental report is available on our website).
- Setting annual targets in each of the 7 key areas of impact recognised in this policy to ensure we improve over time.
- Using carbon footprinting to measure progress and raise awareness of the impacts of our actions.
- Summarising our performance in each key area of impact within a [report submitted to our Audit and Performance Committee](#) at the end of each financial year. This will provide detail of our performance alongside a description of the measures we have put into place to achieve improvements.
- Maintaining the Environmental Management Group, championed by

senior management, to oversee the implementation of this policy and ensure that targets are achieved.

2. Minimise energy use across our operations and use sustainable sources of energy wherever possible, for example by:

- Prioritising the improvement and maintenance of our existing properties to ensure that they are energy efficient. To achieve this we will invest in insulation, new equipment and controls when the opportunity arises.
- Encouraging staff to reduce energy use wherever possible. For example by providing training and awareness raising workshops to staff.
- Choosing energy efficient equipment and materials where possible.
- Using renewable sources of energy where appropriate.

3. Reduce Authority vehicle fuel use and resulting emissions by:

- Helping staff to minimise business travel wherever possible.
 - Supporting staff in using the most sustainable form of transport available to them.
 - Ensuring that our fleet vehicles have the lowest possible emissions for the jobs they need to do.
- 4. Minimise the amount of waste produced within our operations and the total amount we dispose of to landfill by:**
- Following the waste hierarchy – reduce, reuse and recycle – throughout our operations and taking end of life options into account when purchasing goods.
 - Providing recycling facilities wherever possible and thereby enabling and encouraging people to recycle waste when they visit our sites or use our facilities.
- 5. Work to reduce the amount of water used as a result of our operations by:**
- Ensuring that water is not wasted or used unnecessarily. This includes properly maintaining systems and encouraging good housekeeping amongst all staff.
 - Using water efficient equipment when the opportunity arises.
- 6. Ensure we consider environmental issues when making purchasing decisions by:**
- Choosing recycled materials wherever we can including using recycled paper within our offices and for printed materials.
- Considering environmental impacts arising from a products manufacture, use and disposal.
 - To prefer local contractors and suppliers who contribute towards the conservation objectives of the National Park. For instance, using Environmental Quality Mark approved suppliers for certain products sold within our visitor centres.
 - Not knowingly contracting with suppliers who have contravened environmental (including planning) legislation.
 - When using minerals and building products, ensuring that sites they are extracted from possess all relevant licences and permissions. Where possible, recycled construction materials will be preferred.
 - Making sure that all contractors and suppliers of potentially harmful services or materials possess all necessary permissions and licenses.
- 7. Demonstrate good practice in sustainable management of our own estates by:**
- Enhancing their biodiversity, in particular ensuring that all of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest on our land achieve and are then maintained in favourable condition.
 - Restoring and enhancing priority habitats identified in the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan.
 - Writing and then annually reviewing new Estate Management Plans for our main estates.

As an Authority we recognise that we have some tough decisions to make and that a negative impact in one area often needs to be weighed up against a benefit in another. However, through the maintenance and implementation of this policy, we hope to improve our environmental performance wherever we can whilst undertaking our duty to conserve and enhance the National Park.

This policy will be reviewed annually and is endorsed by:

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Jim Dixon
Chief Executive, Peak District National Park Authority

Date:

In addition to the above, we recognise our unique opportunity to support environmental actions through our plans, the most significant being the National Park Management Plan and the Climate Change Action Plan, and our programmes such as the Environmental Quality Mark and Sustainable Development Fund. Information about these is available on our website www.peakdistrict.gov.uk .