

UK Youth Environmental Policy Statement

Introduction

1. UK Youth attaches a great deal of importance to the Government's environmental strategy. It is also conscious of the fact that it is part of local communities, and their concerns should also be UK Youth's concerns.
2. UK Youth therefore recognises and accepts that concern for the environment is an integral and fundamental part of the Charity's activities and is committed to the protection of the natural environment, by avoiding harm and nuisance whilst maintaining the organisations effectiveness. The charity is committed to compliance with the relevant legislation, including the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990, and the Environment Act (EA) 1995.
3. UK Youth as an organisation will actively seek to reduce its adverse impact on the environment; to the lowest practicable minimum, by recognising its responsibilities through a positive policy on safety at the work place, control of pollution and care for the local environment. Any threat of pollution from its activities and products will be identified and either eliminated or effectively controlled.
4. The Chief Executive takes responsibility for this policy's execution and requires that it be a prime concern of all staff at all levels.
5. This statement will be brought to the attention of all staff, suppliers and contractors and copies are freely available to the general public and regulatory authorities.

Environmental Action Programme

The following environmental action programme is formulated to implement the policy. The environmental action programme determines the specific objectives for environmental control, providing guidelines for charity personnel who have the responsibility for ensuring that the objectives are met:

- a) Management Involvement. Managers at all levels throughout the charity must take individual responsibility to ensure that environmental issues are considered carefully when making decisions or when planning and controlling work.
- b) Workforce Involvement. All staff will be made aware of their individual responsibilities for acting in accordance with the environmental policy. Accountabilities will be clearly defined within the management structure. Appropriate training and instruction will be provided.
- c) Effects on the Community. Noise, odour, atmospheric emissions, traffic and other aspects of the charity's activities, which can affect the local community, will be controlled to the lowest practical level. The charity seeks to be a good neighbour by maintaining its operating sites to the highest practical standards.

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- d) Engineering and Safety. Plant and systems of work will be designed and maintained to the highest possible standard in order to minimise accidents and unforeseen occurrences. The charity will endeavour to work closely with the relevant statutory bodies to meet all applicable legislation and improve operating procedures. Systems have been developed to provide the appropriate response to deal with any incident which might have off site significance.
- e) Waste Reduction and Recycling. Careful consideration will be given to the elimination or minimisation of waste at source and the recycling or reuse of materials.
- f) Waste Disposal. Disposal and transport of wastes off-sites will be carried out in a responsible manner and with due regard to all environmental considerations. Discharge of trade effluent to sewer or through the Sewage Plant at Avon Tyrrell will be as required by legislation, through consent and controls. The charity will endeavour to minimise spillages and maintain good housekeeping as part of its system of compliance.
- g) Biodiversity and Sustainability. UK Youth will whenever possible, enhance Avon Tyrrell's Biodiversity and Sustainability and encourage learning for visitors who visit the site.

To meet the main policy objectives the Chief Executive requires that the Senior Leadership Team will:

- a) Promote environmental awareness and performance through effective education and training.
- b) Implement and operate management systems to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and demonstrate where practicable, further improvement in environmental performance.
- c) Maintain expertise within the charity to manage and implement environmental protection measures as outlined in the Charity's Health, Safety & Environmental Protection Action Plan.
- d) Maintain an environment manual, as the first point of reference to ensure activities are conducted in compliance with the law and international convention, and to provide a broad overview of policies on environmental issues.
- e) Ensure that all charity personnel are aware of their personal responsibilities and accountability.

The role of Environmental Manager has been delegated by the Chief Executive to the Director of Outdoor Learning.

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