

<b>Brighton Permaculture Trust (BPT)</b>	
<b>Environmental Policy</b>	<b>Page 1 of 5</b>
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Brighton Permaculture Trust takes a thorough approach to demonstrating permaculture design in action through its day-to-day operational activities. We seek to show by example how permaculture can create significant improvements in reducing an organisation's negative environmental impact and on occasions having a positive environmental impact. We will liaise with our contractors, suppliers and other stakeholders to make environmental issues an important part of our operations.

Much of Brighton Permaculture Trust's educational work is carried out at venues we do not own. Office work is carried out by employees, contractors and volunteers in their own premises. In these situations situation it is necessary to encourage best practice. Our orchards, buildings and plot at Stanmer are the only places where we have direct control of the environment.

## 1. Permaculture design

We will:

- Use permaculture design thinking to ensure that projects and activities are consistent with the permaculture approach, have minimum negative environmental impact and demonstrate best practice;
- Endeavour to initiate and encourage practices and projects, both within the organisation and elsewhere, which have a positive environmental impact, eg tree planting.

## 2. Energy

We will, and will also encourage our trustees, contractors, volunteers, course participants, event participants and project partners to:

- Reduce the amount of energy we use in proportion to our activities;
- Assess the energy consumption of new equipment when making purchasing decisions;
- Use renewable energy when and where possible; This will include creating appropriate energy production systems and aiming for mobile portable equipment that's easy to adapt to 12/24 volts.

Additionally we will encourage our trustees, contractors, volunteers, course participants, event participants and project partners to:

- Switch off computers, monitors, lights, copiers and printers when not in use and heating will be used effectively and efficiently;
- Use low energy lighting, draught proofing and other energy conservation measures.

## 3. Supplies and use of materials

We will, and will also encourage our trustees, contractors, volunteers, course participants, event participants and project partners to:

- Use care and thought about the best use of materials;
- Look at the environmental criteria of new supplies and, whenever possible, buy products that meet the highest standards of environmental performance and durability;
- Buy second hand and already recycled products where possible;
- Buy materials that are reusable or recyclable and then reuse or recycle where possible;
- Reduce use of materials wherever possible;
- Reduce the amount of supplies wherever possible and only buy what we really need;
- Use natural materials wherever possible;
- Minimise waste by using proper crockery, cutlery, cups etc, and re-use paper wherever possible;
- Minimise water use and use rainwater in the garden.

Additionally we will encourage our trustees, contractors, volunteers, course participants, event participants and project partners to:

- Use low-flush WC cisterns and spray hand-washing taps.

#### **4. Paper**

We will, and will also encourage our trustees, contractors, volunteers, course participants, event participants and project partners to:

- Employ working practices that reduce paper use, such as phone, email, electronic transfer of documents and an online paperless office;
- Reduce the amount of paper used, and buy recycled and recyclable paper products (that contain a minimum of 80% recycled content) wherever possible;
- Avoid printing documents;
- Double side photocopy where possible.

Additionally we will encourage our trustees, contractors, volunteers, course participants, event participants and project partners to:

- Reuse paper and envelopes wherever possible.

#### **5. Indoor issues**

In the course of building the Fruit Factory with straw bales, we have used a natural material that will ensure minimum need for heating and will showcase the benefits of straw bale buildings. We will also encourage our venue providers, trustees, contractors, volunteers, course participants, event participants and project partners to:

- Use natural light whenever possible;
- Use no overhead fluorescent lights in the office;
- Wear clothing appropriate to the temperature to minimise heating/cooling demands;
- Use natural displacement ventilation through opening windows etc;
- Maximise solar gain where possible;
- Provide high radiant temperatures as opposed to high air temperatures (achieved by high levels of insulation and radiant heat sources);
- Keep indoor noise levels to 40-45dBA;
- Minimise noise from building to the outside;
- Provide a pleasant internal environment.

#### **6. Health**

We will:

- Ensure that any outside smoking areas at events are located to ensure that smoke does not affect non-smokers.

We will encourage our trustees, contractors, volunteers, course participants, event participants and project partners to:

- Take/promote healthy exercise and eat good food;
- Screen all VDUs.

## **7. Chemicals**

We will in our buildings at Stanmer Park and will also encourage our venue providers, trustees, contractors, volunteers, course participants, event participants and project partners to:

- Use no ozone depleting chemicals;
- Use highly biodegradable and non harming / low environmental impact cleaning products and materials;
- Provide an environment free of hazardous materials and vapours, pathogenic bacteria and high levels of electromagnetic radiation;
- Use no halons in fire extinguishers;
- Use boilers of low nitrogen oxides output;
- Include no air-conditioning plant.

## **8. Recycling and disposal of materials**

We will, and will also encourage our trustees, contractors, volunteers, course participants, event participants and project partners to:

- Ensure that all products that can be recycled will be routinely collected for recycling. This will include all paper and ink/toner cartridges;
- Endeavour to make anything that we produce and any packaging as recyclable as possible and to have them recycled whenever this is possible;
- Compost suitable food and cardboard waste.

## **9. Transport**

We will, and will also encourage our trustees, contractors, volunteers, course participants, event participants and project partners to:

- Adopt working practices that minimise the need to travel;
- Choose central but appropriate venues for courses, events and meetings;
- Encourage tele-working, including telephone conferencing and email, in order to reduce unnecessary travel;
- Promote environmentally friendly forms of transport in all our activities, including incentives to, pedestrians, cyclists and those who use public transport as well as encouraging lift-share where cars are used;
- Provide clear walking, cycling and bus directions, and bus and train timetables to our courses, events and sites, and to encourage visitors to

use these services, and discourage car usage, whilst promoting lift sharing when cars are used;

- Use local suppliers and workforce wherever possible;
- Ensure any company-owned vehicles are maintained and operated as efficiently as possible to maximise their environmental performance;
- Ensure any new vehicles are assessed from an environmental perspective before purchase. Other transport uses for work purposes will be chosen to be as environmentally friendly as possible;
- Use local raw materials so as to reduce the energy use in transport.

## **10. Food**

We will, and will also encourage our venue providers, trustees, contractors, volunteers, course participants, event participants and project partners to:

- Give preference to permaculture producers, unless this will involve greater energy and transport use than other local suppliers;
- Source locally grown, and where possible organic food, for events, seminars and other activities;
- When running a bar at events, source local and organic beers, ciders, juices and wines;
- Ensure that food that cannot be sourced locally is fair-trade and organic;
- Serve tap water at meetings course and events, in preference to bottled water.

## **11. Purchasing Policy**

We will, and will also encourage our venue providers, trustees, contractors, volunteers, course participants, event participants and project partners to:

- Purchase from companies that have a commitment to quality and environmentally friendly production systems;
- Give preference to companies that have achieved ISO 14000 (or similar) quality standards, and suitable local suppliers.