



SURREY DOCKS FARM

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Reviewed by: Gemma Hooper, Farm Manager 01/04/2026 - No changes necessary

Approved by: Management Committee 06/12/2022

Signed: *G. Hooper*



1. POLICY AIM

This Environmental Policy demonstrates how Surrey Docks Farm will ensure it meets its charitable objects, leading by example and making a positive impact on our environment, both on and off site.

Surrey Docks Farm's charitable objects refer to "*promoting the protection and improvement of the natural environment through best environmental practices*" and to enable "*city dwellers to lead healthier lives with a lower environmental impact*". The full charitable objects are available via the Farm's [website](#).

2. LEGISLATION

Surrey Docks Farm will meet or exceed compliance with environmental legislation and environmental codes of practice, through staff training and awareness, volunteer inductions and the ongoing review of environmental performance.

Relevant Environmental Regulations include:

- Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005
- Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991
- The Environment Act 1990
- The Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989

3. IMPACT & OBJECTIVES

Our most significant adverse environmental impacts are:

1. Emissions to the atmosphere from the use of carbon based energy in farm buildings and fuel in vehicles and machinery
2. Consumption of resources through our use of energy, water, materials and office supplies.
3. Production of waste materials

Key objectives of this policy are to:

1. Reduce the Farm's adverse environmental impacts wherever possible, through the below commitments
2. Achieve recognition, support and compliance with the environmental policy by all staff, volunteers, on site businesses and suppliers



4. COMMITMENTS

Surrey Docks Farm commits to the following actions:

- **Energy Consumption**

- ✓ Encourage staff to switch off lights, computers etc. when not in use
- ✓ Recycle or re-use old IT and electrical equipment where possible
- ✓ Take into account the energy efficiency rating, when buying new electrical equipment
- ✓ Take steps to minimise heat loss by keeping workroom doors closed and windows shut
- ✓ Replace energy consumption with greener energy produced on site. For example, using electricity from solar panels on the building roofs and boiling the kettle using gas produced through our biodigester (that anaerobically digest animal waste to produce a bio gas)

- **Paper Use**

- ✓ Keep the use of paper and printer ink to a minimum, using soft copy where possible
- ✓ Provide a tray in each relevant room to store paper that can be re-used
- ✓ Shred and compost waste confidential papers

- **Composting**

- ✓ Provide each tea station with a kitchen composter to collect teabags, fruit skins etc. to be emptied onto a compost heap when full
- ✓ Maintain adequate facilities to store animal manure and bedding where it can rot down and either be used on site or collected by public or community organisations
- ✓ Maintain adequate facilities to compost all green waste
- ✓ Ensure no green waste or animal waste is put into the general waste bins

- **Use of Chemicals**

- ✓ Ensure all food growing activities at the Farm adhere to organic and sustainable principles, e.g. no chemicals, use of peat free compost and composting of all green waste
- ✓ Store and dispose of any essential medicines and chemicals (e.g. cleaning products) appropriately

- **Purchasing of Products**

- ✓ Use as many recycled, biodegradable or environmentally friendly products as possible, as long as the cost is not prohibitive
- ✓ Limit the use of petrol driven tools to a minimum and upgrade to electric alternatives where available and where funding allows
- ✓ Purchase items from local shops and suppliers where possible
- ✓ Keep looking at ways to replace purchased items with both on and offsite re-purposed waste products e.g. collecting waste wood shavings from a local timber company to use for poultry bedding



- **Water Use**

- ✓ Taps and hoses shouldn't be left running unattended
- ✓ Keep the rainwater harvesting system in good working order and encourage its use for watering the Farm's growing spaces
- ✓ Reuse water where possible e.g. duck pond water is pumped into the biodigester rather than straight down the drains

- **Recycling**

- ✓ Provide two bins in each work room, one for general waste and one for recycling
- ✓ Provide clear labels explaining which items can be recycled on all recycling bins, in line with Southwark Council guidelines
- ✓ Reuse or recycle all waste metal, wood and other materials where possible
- ✓ Encourage and direct all groups (including schools) that visit the Farm to recycle their waste
- ✓ Continue to research possible uses for farm waste and keep a watch for potential grants for future recycling projects, e.g. paper feed sacks are reused to bag up and sell compost
- ✓ Work with other charities who promote the reduce, reuse, recycle chain e.g. supporting 'Refill London' by signing up to offer visitors free water bottle refills onsite.

- **Litter**

- ✓ Provide adequate equipment (litter pickers, gloves etc) for litter picking on and off site e.g. on the Thames foreshore in front of the Farm
- ✓ Engage participants in litter picking activities
- ✓ Promote organisations and support campaigns to reduce litter, such as 'Keep Britain Tidy'

- **Wildlife**

- ✓ Adhere to 'gardening for wildlife' principles, for example not using any herbicide or pesticides on food growing spaces, leaving areas to grow wild and encouraging nettle beds, sowing wildflower seeds and encouraging pollinators, providing log piles, installing and maintaining insect hotels, bird boxes and bat boxes
- ✓ Nurture and tend the dedicated wildlife garden area, including the wildlife pond
- ✓ Provide a range of wild bird food throughout the year
- ✓ Plant and maintain mixed native hedges along boundary lines and fences, where possible
- ✓ Attend Southwark Council's Biodiversity Partnership meetings, including actively delivering the new Southwark Nature Action Plan which aims to 'Making Nature Accessible to All'
- ✓ Contribute to nationwide studies such as the 'Big Butterfly Count' and RSPB's 'Big Garden Bird Watch'
- ✓ Report sightings on social media, in the monthly newsletter or on iNaturalist; encouraging staff, volunteers, participants and visitors to contribute their sightings
- ✓ Support participants in the Farm's Youth Programme to engage in longer term projects and opportunities in environmental conservation e.g. taking part in London Wildlife Trust's "Keeping it Wild" social action projects for wildlife



- **Visitor Engagement & Education**

- ✓ Enable visitors to learn about the Farm's environmental actions through signage e.g. the signage that highlights the Farm's solar panels, composting, green roof, rainwater harvesting etc
- ✓ Encourage visitors to think about responsible sourcing of food and reducing food miles, by providing a local alternative of Surrey Docks Farm produced eggs, meat, fruit and vegetables sold through the Farm shop
- ✓ Deliver workshops for school classes to teach children about composting and recycling
- ✓ When taking participants off site always use public transport, unless it's not accessible

5. RESPONSIBILITY & REVIEW

The success of this policy is dependent on all staff to set a good example and induct all volunteers and users when they join the Farm.

The Farm is committed to work with all our partners and outside contractors to encourage them to commit to this policy.

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure improvements are implemented where possible, changes will be discussed and approved by the Farm's Management Committee.