

Environmental Commitment Statement



We are the county's leading conservation charity, committed to protecting wildlife and inspiring a lifelong love of nature. We manage nature reserves and discovery parks across the county, providing outstanding outdoor education and preserving places of wonder. Founded in 1959 by volunteers, we protect over 8,400 acres of land across 87 sites and are supported by over 39,000 members.

We have entered the most vital decade for wildlife in the history of nature conservation and there is an urgent need for us all to play our part in nature's recovery. We are dependent on the natural world for so many aspects of our daily lives – the air that we breathe; the water we drink; the food we eat and our physical and mental health. The natural world is fundamental to our very existence.

We know there is now an urgent need to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies; to restore damaged habitats; to connect our protected areas to the rest of the landscape, and to lobby for legislation that places our natural heritage at the forefront of decision making and forward planning.

We will be innovative and agile in our work, in order to match the pace and urgency of the environmental challenges we face; whilst also balancing this with a review of our organisational appetite for risk. We will agree ambitious new targets for energy use and waste reduction and by the end of the strategic period we will have a culture of innovation and sustainability embedded across the organisation, supported by Innovation Champions and an Innovation Fund to enable ideas to become reality. Our flagship project for 2020-25 will be an ambitious vision for carbon neutrality.

We have conducted a Trust wide Environmental Review and have identified the following environmental impact areas: energy consumption & efficiency, the use of fossil fuels, use of non-renewables and the sustainability of our retail operations.

From this we are committed to implementing the following objectives:

- Commit to meet all our compliance obligations;
- Actively monitor the Trusts Carbon Footprint and actively respond to decrease it;
- Create, implement and continuously review an Improvement Plan that covers all aspects of sustainability within the Trust;
- Investigate and implement renewable energy sources where possible;
- Decrease general waste and increase the recycling rates across the Trust;
- Communicate and educate sustainability to key stakeholders;
- Assess suppliers and corporate members & partners on their sustainability/corporate social responsibility;
- Embed the three pillars of sustainability – environmental, economic and social – into our culture at EWT with staff, volunteers, members and other stakeholders;
- Create and apply an Environmental Management System;
- Collaborate with the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts on a carbon calculation and reduction strategy.

This policy has been approved and supported by the Board of Trustees. The responsibility for implementing the above objectives sits with the entire organisation. The Business Support Team will be responsible for constantly monitoring and reviewing this policy and guiding the Trust in its delivery.

Keeley Hazelhurst, Chair

Dr Andrew Impey, CEO

30 July 2021

