

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY: ORGANISATIONAL GREENING POLICY

The Cairngorms National Park Authority was established in April 2003 with the purpose of ensuring the delivery of the statutory four Aims of the Cairngorms National Park in a collective and co-ordinated manner. These Aims are:

- To conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area
- To promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area
- To promote understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public
- To promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

In achieving this function, the CNPA as an entity consumes and deploys resources with consequent impacts on the environment. Accordingly the Authority has a duty to use its own resources economically, efficiently and effectively to reduce these impacts. In order to achieve this goal and to set a positive example to others in the Park, we have developed, the following Organisational Greening Policy Statement to guide our actions:

1. Office

We shall seek continual improvement to our environmental performance by aiming to:

- minimise overall resource use in all our offices and operations;
- increase use of renewable as opposed to non-renewable resources;
- use reusable and recycled materials wherever practical;
- minimise harmful outputs to the environment;
- minimise waste production by reusing and recycling wherever feasible; and
- minimise energy consumption, and the consequent production of atmospheric pollutants by regular review, by progressive introduction of energy efficient equipment and systems in all offices, and by the active promotion of energy saving actions amongst staff.

2. Travel

We shall review all our travel practices and aim to encourage a minimisation in the use of motor cars by staff and Board Members:

- for getting to their workplace through encouragement of cycling, walking, car sharing and appropriate home working;
- when travelling for business, through encouraging public transport for long journeys, by using pool vehicles with good environmental performance in relation to functional requirements;
- by encouraging sharing of vehicles wherever practicable;
- by minimising the need to travel for meetings through the use of teleconferencing and other technology.

3. Procurement

We shall develop meaningful environmental impact criteria which will be incorporated into our procurement procedures for services and materials

4. Performance Indicators

We shall develop meaningful performance targets against which we shall measure and report our environmental improvements on a regular basis.

5. Assessments

We shall make effective use of Strategic Environmental Assessments to ensure that our plans and policies governing our statutory and other functions are most environmentally beneficial.

6. Influencing Others

We shall establish the CNPA as positive example and use our powers to encourage and enable others to carry out their functions in compliance with best environmental practice.

7. Active Staff Participation

In achieving the above, we shall:

- promote the active involvement of all our staff, harnessing and encouraging their interest, ideas, energy and commitment; and
- provide clear information, advice, guidance and training to achieve this end.

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY: ORGANISATIONAL GREENING TARGETS/AIMS

1. Office

We shall seek continual improvement to our environmental performance by aiming to:

Targets

- Provide a baseline for resource use in all our offices and operations by reassessing the General Environmental Review of CNPA produced in 2004. By end of June 2006.
- Fit water saving devices to taps and cisterns – By end of June 2006.
- Landlord has agreed to fit water meters at the Grantown offices. Continue to investigate the practicality of fitting water meters at the Ballater office. In process and ongoing.
- Gain baseline assessment of current achievements with respect to waste, re-use and recycling by employing SE Waste Consultant. By end of September 2006.
- Use the Waste consultants report to review effectiveness of separation and collection of recyclable waste and to refine processes in all offices by end December 2006.
- Identify sources of re-usable materials for office equipment.
- Use bio-degradable and non-polluting cleaning agents. Immediate
- Gain baseline information on energy use and consequent greenhouse gas emissions by employing SE energy consultants to review and assess our current energy use. By end of September 2006.
- Using advice from the energy consultants, develop a strategy for more efficient use of energy per head of staff by setting meaningful targets to reduce energy use and to obtain a greater proportion of our energy from renewable sources. By end of December 2006.
- Identify energy efficient IT and other equipment for phased replacement of existing equipment as their functional life comes to an end. Ongoing according to functional life of existing equipment.
- Reinvigorate the promotion of switching off lights and other electronic equipment rather than use of stand-by facilities. Immediate.

2. Travel

Targets

- Maintain cycle shed and showers in Grantown Offices
- Ensure remote access to e-mail works efficiently for all staff who may be able to use. By end of March 2006.
- Increase sharing of vehicles
- Increase use of public transport (rail) for long journeys wherever feasible,
- Maintain teleconference facilities in all offices, and identify additional voice-conference technology that could enhance the ability to hold distance meetings.
- Review pool vehicle needs and capabilities, and identify suitable replacement vehicles with more efficient fuel use and reduced emissions. By end December 2007.

3. Procurement

Targets

- Identify sources of reusable and recycled materials

- Establish a system to allow consideration of travel distances for delivery to be factored into determinations of best value for money and environment for procurement.
- Devise a system for seeking information on greening policies used by potential contractors

4. Performance Indicators

Targets

- Use the information collected above in the various reviews and baseline setting activities to devise specific and measurable performance targets for achievable reductions in resource use per head of staff. By end March 2007.

5. Assessments

Aims

- SEA of Park and Local Plans ongoing.
- SEA of Woodlands and Forest Framework
- SEA of Outdoor Access Strategy

6. Influencing Others

Aims

- Promotion of Green Tourism Awards, and encourage staff and Board members to use accredited premises for overnight accommodation.
- Report annually on greening progress for the CNPA
- Promotion of Heather Hopper bus service
- Sustainability Guidance for built development
- Local market promotion for local farm produce
- Promotion of local timber for local use
- Promotion of biodiversity targets
- Promotion of integrated and sustainable land management

7. Active Staff Participation

Targets

- Reconvene and reinvigorate the staff greening committee by end of March 2006
- Identify champions within the above to drive forward the Greening Targets, and to identify new opportunities to improve environmental performance
- Seek guidance and support from SNH's Greening Officer to learn from established experience in a sister organisation
- Report regularly to Management, Board and Staff meetings on achievements and initiatives
- Make Greening a key annual target for Management Team and Board, with an agreed series of interim reports to ensure measurable progress.