



Environmental Policy

Introduction

Tir Coed recognises the importance of promoting, protecting and enhancing the environment as an essential prerequisite, together with social and economic measures, of engaging in and bringing about sustainable development.

To this end Tir Coed is committed in all its activities to ensuring that it acts to increase, conserve and promote awareness of:

- **bio-diversity**
- **natural resources**
- **the philosophy and ethics of reduce , reuse and recycle**
- **the environment and sustainable development**
- **the aesthetic qualities of the environment, both natural and built**

Tir Coed regards action to conserve or create a sustainable environment as an essential component of community development activity. Individuals and communities cannot exercise full and meaningful control over their own lives if they do not also have a measure of responsibility and the capacity to influence their own environment. Tir Coed is committed to making its own work an example of best practice for other groups in the area. In its work with other community organisations and voluntary groups it will encourage them to take the broadest possible view of their objectives and activities and to develop integrated policies and strategies which take the social, economic and environmental context of their work in to consideration.

Responsibilities

This commitment affects everyone who works with and for Tir Coed, including Board members, staff and volunteers. The responsibility for implementing this policy lies with Tir Coed Project Officers.

Specific working practices and Commitments

Purchases and Supply

- Wherever possible purchases will be from locally manufactured or available products and services.
- Ensure that all purchases of paper are of those that contain a significant proportion of re-cycled material (we will aim for 100%) and preferably:
 - a) FSC certified; or, alternatively
 - b) PFC certified.
- All paper purchased will be of the lowest grade compatible with the intended use.
- Tir Coed will not purchase tropical hardwood from unsustainable sources and will instead seek to use locally (Wales) sourced hardwood or that from other certified sustainable temperate sources.
- All cleaning products purchased by Tir Coed will be as environmentally friendly as possible. Preference will be given to pump action (re-usable) aerosols and non-spray products.
- No use will be made of peat or peat based products.
- Energy use will be from green sources, where possible.

Natural Environment

- Where appropriate, Tir Coed staff will ensure that ecological surveys are undertaken and the results incorporated into the planning and development of a project.
- Tir Coed will make maximum use of native trees and shrub species in its practical projects.
- No herbicides, or other chemicals, will be used during Tir Coed controlled activities. For activities outside Tir Coed's direct control, COSHH regulations and Countryside Council for Wales' recommendations for the use of herbicides and other chemicals will be upheld.

Transport

The Organisation will:

- Encourage, where feasible, the use of bicycles for short trips and public transport for longer journeys.
- Work towards reducing fuel consumption by vehicle sharing, combining journeys, good planning and regular maintenance of vehicles.

Recycling

- Tir Coed will adopt a basic strategy of **reduce** , **reuse** and **recycle**.
- Tir Coed will set up systems and operations to ensure that as much of its waste as possible is recycled and recognises that sorting of its waste is a critical factor in achieving this.

Energy

The Tir Coed will seek to minimise power consumption by

- Ensuring the correct installation and operation of all electrical and fuel consuming devices.
- All new electrical items to be purchased on the basis of their energy efficiency where possible.
- Lighting and other equipment to be switched off when not in use.

- **Relationships with Others**

- Tir Coed will not undertake to work for any group, client or organisation if there is reason to believe that they are pursuing or likely to pursue activities that will cause unnecessary and avoidable damage to the environment and where Tir Coed is unlikely to be able to exert a positive influence on the situation.
- Having first consulted with the Chairman of the Tir Coed Board, the Project Officers shall be entitled to withdraw Tir Coed from any organisation which cannot be persuaded to refrain from activities which cause unnecessary or avoidable environmental damage, provided that there are no legal or contractual implications in doing so. If there would be legal or contractual implications in withdrawing from a project on these grounds, the Project Officers will immediately inform the Chairman of the Board who will decide what action to take in the best interests of the environmental policy and of Tir Coed's reputation.

- **Contracts with others:** Any individual or organisations contracted to work for Tir Coed will be expected to comply with this policy.

Monitoring

Tir Coed will monitor the application of this policy on an annual basis to ensure that its practices comply with the requirements of the Policy. The Project Officers will report on any major issues arising in relation to the policy in their regular reports to the Board.

Promotion

All Board members, staff, contractors and volunteers will be made aware of this policy, its content and requirements.