**Curraghs Wildlife Park Environmental and Sustainability policy**

This policy sets out the Curraghs Wildlife Park’s measures to minimise its impact on the environment and work in a sustainable ways for the environment and local economy. The whole of the Isle of Man is a Unesco biosphere, and as a conservation organisation we aim to do all that we can, and consider the impact of our work and how to mitigate or eliminate negative impacts on the environment while supporting a local circular sustainable economy

**Energy and building design**

* LED lights used in all buildings
* Lights on timers in animal buildings or switched off when not in use
* Heaters on thermostats
* Insulation and draft exclusion considered in all buildings, older buildings fitted with measures to decrease energy ‘leakage’ and all new buildings designed to be as energy efficient as possible
* Consider and weigh-up the environmental impact of production of materials used in building and maintenance projects
* Implementation of first solar panels with the aim to increase renewable energy in the future after a full energy review
* Re-use, recycle and repurpose materials wherever possible

**Waste Management**

* Re-use and recycle where possible
* Compost and use herbivore bedding
* Re-cycle cardboard that cannot be returned for reuse (Robinsons fruit deliveries takes back boxes and re-uses)
* General waste skip is sorted into materials that can be re-cycled and materials that cannot are responsibly disposed of
* Waste in general bins is incinerated on island and used to generate heat for the islands main sports facility, see here for more details <http://suez.co.im/what-we-do/energy-recovery/>
* Toxicity of chemicals considered and we use non-toxic in the majority of cases where possible. Any potentially harmful chemicals are disposed of appropriately
* Reduce packaging of anything we sell in the shop or online. Re-using packaging materials. We do not give out plastic or disposable bags
* Ensure any contactors we use also have an environmental waste policy during tender process

**Procurement of supplies and animal feed**

* Where possible we use locally produced foods and items sourced directly
* Some vegetables, all our hay and straw comes from within 2 miles away
* When we have to import materials we use on-island businesses wherever possible and order the maximum we can use or hold to limit journeys
* We source materials that are palm oil free or use sustainable palm oil
* Plastics are procured and used in line with the Isle of Man governments plastics policy <https://www.gov.im/media/1362336/isle-of-man-governments-single-use-plastics-reduction-plan.pdf>
* We do not buy or use single use plastic

**Shop stock**

* Shop goods for re-sale are procured carefully with environmental impact as a priority
* Wholesalers are questioned on the use of packaging and materials going into products and we ‘put pressure’ on them to improve their environmental and sustainable practices
* Plastic is now almost eliminated with the exception of a few bio-plastic items or toys that will have a long life due to robust design, we are no longer procuring cheap throwaway plastic toys
* We stock a good range of eco-soft toys – sewed eyes, filling from re-cycled bottle. We also stock nature planet and other eco and re-cycled lines
* We do not hand out bags unless necessary and they are paper – we do not use plastic bags

**Travel and vehicle use**

* Along with the IoM bus company we offer a combined saving ticket that offers a discount on the gate ticket and bus ride. The ‘Go Wild’ ticket means that visitors can make a saving over bus and entry and thus gives an incentive to leave the car and use public transport
* Keepers mostly use trolleys that are manual, our one animal department vehicle (ATV) used in the Park is electric
* The Park has one diesel van, one small tractor and one ride on mower – these are used when essential

**Further objectives**

* Calculate our Carbon footprint and then decrease, mitigate and off set to bring to ‘net zero’ as soon as possible
* Full energy and site review, with assistance from the climate change team to source budget for initiatives to bring the Park to net zero, and reduce our reliance on grid electricity
* Re-cycling opportunities for our visitors and café waste
* Benchmark our progress and consider environmental certification and audits in the future

**This policy will be reviewed and up-dated and is a living document. This version was produced in March 2023.**