

2011

NOAH'S ARK ZOO FARM

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[DEPARTMENTAL GREEN POLICY]

Sustainability and green practice are important areas for the forward-thinking business to address. Each Department has varying physical and chemical impacts on the local environment and has been briefed on new measures to adopt in response. The following pages outline the individual criteria for each Department and current progress as of Winter 2010.

Noah's Ark Zoo Farm

Green Policy Statement (2011)

Commitment to sustainable practise at Noah's Ark:

As a team we strive to conduct our daily business practises in an environmentally sustainable fashion- this is an area we are aiming to continually improve and look to develop, moving forward as a growing visitor attraction.

Our business is split into five departments (Animal, Grounds, Electrical, Buildings and Office Teams). We have formed a specific 'Green Team' which manages green issues, monitoring and planning/development of new projects and initiatives; a member from each department forms this group, led by our Conservation Officer (our Head Groundsman). We encourage input from all employees and look to inform our staff on news in this area of business.

We conduct business in line with relevant government and local council regulations concerning the disposal of all waste products, including the WEEE Directive for electrical equipment. We conduct bi-annual reviews of specific green criteria set to our separate departments to monitor progress and confirm we are advancing in this area.

Each departmental team has been given a set of criteria to address concerning environmental good-practise in the work they carry out (most recent team update, Feb 2011) in preparation for a second audit by the GTBS (Summer 2011), after gaining the Silver Award in 2009.

After the success of our first GTBS inspection, we now look to work towards further waste minimisation and energy efficiency (particularly lighting) in due course, as encouraged by the Green Tourism Business Scheme *Report* for our business (Nov '09).

Below is an overview of our main efforts to protect our local environment and to conduct sustainable business and comments about possible improvements we could make.

Waste

Oil

The servicing of vehicles is carried out by outside contractors. This is the only means in which waste oil is produced and all oil is therefore removed from site by them.

Chemicals

Excess chemicals such as herbicides/pesticides are used up on the target area so disposal is not required. Surplus animal treatment is packaged ready for removal by the vet. Paint remaining in the bottom of pots is ideally used up but when paint has set, disposal is through general waste.

General Rubbish [incl. litter around park, Biffa compaction]

The park is checked for litter in the public area on a daily basis and disposal (which includes all other general waste) is through Biffa bins.

Electronics

The amount of electronic waste produced is minimal but is collected together for collection in line with the WEEE directive.

Recycling

Paper, cardboard, and metal is recycled. We have recycle bins out to enable the general public to separate their waste in the picnic area before we then deal with it in the appropriate manner.

All animal waste which includes; straw, hay and vegetables are sent to the compost heap, together with excess grass cuttings. The compost is spread annually onto our crop fields.

Grass cuttings are generally recycled when cutting through a mulching deck on the mower and are fed back down into the lawn in one process.

Hazardous waste

This includes asbestos and toiletry waste. Asbestos is removed through a licensed waste disposal company and toiletry waste pumped from the septic tank via contractors.

Conservation

Refuges and Land management

A large number of bird and bat boxes have been installed around the 310 acre site, catering for small blue tits to barn owls. The land management employed implements new refuges

wherever possible such as log piles, leaving areas of brambles for cover and includes the creation of a new conservation pond. We've also established 5 acres of wildflower meadow and created an overall conservation management plan for the farm.

Tree/hedge planting

In the main, native planting is solely undertaken around the farm with around 16,000 planted to date. Around 2000 additional non-native trees have also been planted.

Gardening

All flower beds are mulched with woodchip produced from local tree surgeons. This helps to reduce water loss in the beds and cuts down on the amount of weed maintenance required.

Water (Treatment and conservation)

Waste water arising from the tigers, capybaras and tapirs is filtered through a new reedbed system before being introduced to the ground water. Rain water is harvested for use during crop spraying and is soon to be re-used for the toilet systems.

Miscellaneous

The company operates a non-smoking policy where members of staff are asked to smoke off-site.

A number of family-friendly 'green' events are organised each year such as building bird boxes to coincide with National Nestbox Week and a wildlife day during National Wildlife Week. Through the wildlife day members of the public will be able to participate in pond-dipping, and workshops in pollination, bark rubbing and planting. This celebrates our English heritage and hopes to educate those not au fait with the countryside.

We encourage where possible, staff to source suppliers who hold green credentials.

We have an engine switch off policy for all coaches which stop for longer than 5 minutes.

Designated 'Green Criteria' by Department (NAZF for re-grading 2011)

1) Electrical Team

- Energy monitoring (Meters and analysis/reduction linked to staff incentives. Smart plugs/meters gain extra points. Grants available from Bioenergy Capital Grant Scheme and ECA)
- A-rated refrigeration
- Refrigeration condition

- Mini kettles
- Low energy lighting – **Mandatory**
- LED lighting
- Internal lighting controls and sensors
- External low energy lighting and controls
- Solar hot water heating
- Renewable energy for heating, hot water, appliances and lighting
- Disposal of electronic equipment
- Radiant heaters with sensor controls – High priority if feasible

2) **Grounds Team**

- Minimize pollution from oil tanks
- Waste containment and disposal + recycling
- Chemical storage
- General maintenance
- Litter and visual impression
- Monitor travel and transport
- Monitor Flora and Fauna
- Totally non-smoking
- Community work on local environment
- Visitor payback scheme
- Family focussed green activities
- Ecological water treatment
- Supplier screening
- Visitor recycling facilities
- Sustainable products
- Composting and peat-free garden materials
- Disposal of electronic equipment
- Hazardous waste disposal – **Mandatory**
- Compaction of Biffa bins
- Public transport drop off point
- Cycle storage
- Coach parking and switch off policy
- Business vehicles – ecofriendly
- Natural and cultural heritage initiatives (Membership of WWF etc)
- Nature diary
- Native tree planting
- Wildlife habitats
- Wildlife refuges
- Specialist heritage and cultural buildings

- Accessibility to nature
- Drought resistant gardening

3) Animal Team

- Proper chemical storage
- Safe waste containment/disposal of animal medication (How?)
- Disposal of electronic equipment e.g. old drill batteries etc
- Litter (Bailer twine etc)
- Water troughs leaking/efficient?
- Animal food sourced locally
- Environmental considerations (i.e. Hazardous substances, nature conservation)

4) Building Team

- Minimize possible pollution risk from oil tanks and car parks – **Mandatory**
- Good general maintenance – **Mandatory**
- Monitoring of water (Grants are available from Wessex Water (and maybe Bristol Water) for environmental projects (£100-£1500))
- Heating/Cooling system controls
- High efficiency boilers
- Boiler maintenance and burn efficiency
- Heat recovery
- Roof insulation
- Glazing and draught proofing (Staff room door needs attention)
- Other insulation / low energy designs available?
- Thermostat settings for air/water
- Hot water storage
- Can we lower water flow through public's hand basin taps (already done?)
- Self closing taps
- Urinal controllers
- Low flush toilets (hippos etc. If not possible to replace large cisterns) **Mandatory**
- Infrared urinals
- Water butts – **Mandatory** (Particularly for Alvis' Spray tank)
- Rainwater and grey water harvesting
- Building materials recycled?
- Ensure all timber is FSC (From sustainable forests) **Mandatory**
- How do we dispose of electronic waste, i.e. equipment, batteries etc?
- How do we dispose of construction waste?

- Building conservation measures (limiting spending where need be but also refuges etc for wildlife)
- Hazardous waste disposal (I know this is me but if you could be aware and let me know of things)
- Green rated buildings

5) Office Team

- Recycling of office products (i.e. Paper/Cardboard/Printer cartridges/Toner)
- Target green visitors through marketing
- Green info on website and more information about our efforts
- Joint marketing with GTBS members
- Visitor feedback
- Green information for visitors through website/leaflet inc. Public transport, CarShare.com, Travel incentives, discount for visitors using public transport, nature related attractions in the area
- Collection point for visitors contributing to Green activities (Too far?)
- Recycling materials after school workgroups
- Paper products - **Mandatory** (100% recycled chlorine free paper / sustainable sourced)
- Stationary / Marketing materials refillable, previously recycled?
- Can we use more electronic means rather than paper?