

## **Summary of Nant-Y-Cwm Steiner School Environmental Policy**

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## **Nant-Y-Cwm Steiner School Environmental Policy**

### **Introduction**

Nant-Y-Cwm recognizes the importance of aesthetics and the need for this to be at the heart of re-designing the relationship values between the earth and human activity. Through the School's work, we have observed that human beings are able to receive developmentally potent qualitative experiences, and a heightened sense of environmental and human integration, when their learning is based on an aesthetic foundation and related to experiences in the natural world

The School strives to provide inspirational leadership in the regeneration and re-creation of:

- Individual lives
- Our communities
- The natural environment
- The conditions to support the human spirit

The School understands that all of the above areas are systemically interconnected. It is a deep commitment to embodying this recognition that underpins this environmental policy and the implementation of it within the work and life of the school.

### **Environmental Policy Statement**

Nant-Y-Cwm is committed to regenerating, recreating and preserving the natural environment and will work with the environment in a way that is ecologically sustainable.

The School recognizes that it can play a meaningful role in addressing environmental challenges and aims to be inspirational within the education sector.

### **What are our environmental goals?**

Nant- Y-Cwm seeks to

- Adopt and promote sustainable practices.
- Understand the environmental impact of all the School's activities and reduce it where possible and appropriate i.e. energy consumption, travel and food.
- Help develop innovative solutions to local environmental challenges.

**Who will implement this strategy?**

Implementation, monitoring and reporting of this policy will be driven by the School Management Team, including:

- All staff, pupils and parents.
- External consultancy as required – work may need to be carried out by specialist agencies or consultants i.e. The Eco Centre, The Carbon Trust, Transport specialist etc.

**The primary tasks of the above groups will be to**

- Develop creative and innovative ways to improve the environmental performance of the school.

## Our Strategy

### **1) Energy**

Nant-Y-Cwm will

- Develop systems to monitor, manage and report on energy consumption, efficiency and sources of generation.
- Where possible, reduce energy consumption and improve energy efficiency.

### **2) Land management**

Nant-Y-Cwm will

- Manage its land on an ecologically friendly model.
- Help promote awareness of its environmental commitment through workshops and open days.

### **3) Wildlife**

Nant-Y-Cwm will

- Actively protect, preserve and appreciate the wildlife and natural environment of the school grounds and the surrounding areas (i.e. woods and rivers etc.)

### **4) Food production and purchasing**

#### **Food purchasing**

Nant-Y-Cwm will

- Maximise use of organic food in the School.
- Minimise “food miles” by sourcing and supporting local producers.
- Give preference to Fair Trade suppliers where products cannot be sourced locally.
- Monitor suppliers and purchase products which have an overall minimal environmental impact i.e. use minimal packaging.

#### **Food Production**

Nant-Y-Cwm will

- As part of the curriculum, support food production in the school grounds, using our vegetable patches, greenhouse, our orchard and foraging.
- Use the produce grown in the school garden.

### **5) Travel & Transport**

Nant-Y-Cwm will support the development of a green transport strategy and explore ways that will help:

- Minimise the number of journeys by private motorised transport.

- Promote alternative means of transport, such as walking, cycling, and public transport.
- Encourage car sharing.

#### **6) Waste**

Nant-Y-Cwm will:

- Reduce waste, and reuse items as far as possible.
- Minimise waste through the supporting of recycling programmes for paper, glass, aluminium and plastic.
- Return all appropriate food/green waste to the land through composting.

#### **7) Water**

Nant-Y-Cwm will:

- Manage its water resources sustainably through conservation processes including rainwater harvesting.
- Use our bore hole as our main source of water, (we also have access to local spring water).

#### **8) Building Practice, Housing and Maintenance**

Nant-Y-Cwm will

- Design, build and maintain structures using ecologically sustainable principles so as to reduce the lifetime demand of its buildings for energy, materials and water, and the production of pollution and waste.
- Ensure that the School assesses the environmental impact of significant new building projects and incorporate certain criteria into all new building projects (see appendix A)

#### **9) Green office strategy and procurement**

Nant-Y-Cwm will

- Improve its green office strategy by monitoring the amount of paper used and printing/photocopying undertaken with a view to reducing use.
- Purchase and use products that are environmentally friendly i.e. biodegradable cleaning products and recycled paper
- Endeavour to purchase products from organisations that have a commitment to environmental sustainability

#### **10) Education**

Nant-Y-Cwm will

- Incorporate the essence of its environmental policy and goals into all areas of provision by providing environmental awareness learning for staff through the staff induction training.



- Encourage pupils to have an awareness and appreciation of nature and the natural environment.
- Ensure that during any public event at the school, great consideration to the environment is clearly demonstrated and promoted and that an environmental assessment is made.
- Share its learning and experience of implementing an environmental policy with other educational organisations, if requested.

Nant-Y-Cwm will:

- Review this policy annually

## APPENDIX A

**Greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption** will be reduced through the use of energy efficient design principles and energy production and harnessing techniques. These will include consideration of building orientation and solar access, window placement and double glazing, strategic use of insulation, thermal mass and natural ventilation etc. Environmental and energy consultants will work with the consulting architect and relevant consultants during the design and construction phases of the buildings. This will ensure compliance with the energy brief which will outline the criteria and parameters for energy and greenhouse gas emissions targets for the buildings. Designs will encourage the exploration of alternative energy systems such as photovoltaic cells on roofs, wind and hydro power, solar hot water, ground source heat pumps, biomass, and fuel cell technology.

**Material selection:** Consideration will be given to the life cycle and embodied energy of materials; natural materials; sourcing, collection, manufacture and fabrication from local areas; toxicity of materials; contribution to habitat, land and water; impact on greenhouse emissions; preservation of resources; contribution to human health; contribution to pollution reduction. **This may lead to the use of** recycled building materials. Waste will be minimised during construction.

**Water:** The efficient use, collection, re-use and disposal of water will incorporate various strategies and systems such as: water efficient fittings and fixtures, on site grey water management systems, rainwater harvesting, and flood water management.

**Labour:** Nant-Y-Cwm will endeavour to employ local contractors, trade and craft people where possible.