

Environmental Policy

The Retreat recognises the environment as one of its key priorities and is committed to doing all it can to protect and enhance our environment for today and into the future. This policy supports that commitment. It also supports The Retreat's commitment to sustainable development and confirms the intention that all The Retreat's activities should be underpinned by this policy.

The Retreat will aim to:

1. Reduce the environmental impact of its:
 - waste generation
 - energy and water consumption
 - purchasing of goods and services
 - transport and travel;
2. Protect, conserve and enhance our human heritage and local character;
3. Promote a safe, healthy and better quality environment;
4. Minimise and, where possible, eliminate the release of pollutants which may cause damage to air, water, land or life;
5. Promote the conservation and more sustainable use of both renewable and non-renewable resources.

The Retreat will work towards these aims by:

- Integrating environmental aims into its business planning process;
- Educating, training and raising awareness of environmental issues amongst staff, and people who use our services;
- Raising awareness of environmental issues with our contractors and suppliers, encouraging them to work towards similar environmental standards;
- Consulting with staff as widely as possible on new environmental activities, and encouraging their involvement wherever possible;
- Minimising the risk of environmental damage by assessing new and existing policies, activities and practices for their environmental effects, and by adopting safe technologies and operating procedures;
- Setting objectives and targets for continually improving any significant environmental impacts;
- Complying with legislation;
- Taking all reasonable steps to comply with recognised best practice for activities and services that result in significant environmental impact;
- Measuring, monitoring and reporting on progress towards these aims to staff and people who use our services;
- Reviewing this policy, both its objectives and targets, annually and considering where change may be needed.