

Nairn Allotment Society

Environmental & Sustainability Policy

NAS acknowledges that, in managing the allotments, we must continually strive to reduce our environmental aspects & impacts and promote understanding of sustainability.

Our primary responsibilities arising from this policy are to comply, as a minimum, with all appropriate legislation, local regulations and codes of practice, as well as those requirements imposed by the Highland Council (as landlord), neighbours and others affected by our activities.

This policy commitment is further enhanced by our understanding of the environmental aspects and impacts of our allotments and these include:-

During construction work for future allotments or improvement of existing sites:

- Avoidance of waste resulting from construction work (reduce/ re-use/ recycle).
- Selection of sustainable materials where possible (source recycled material and timber if possible rather than purchasing new) and use new timber with FSC mark where appropriate.
- Minimise nuisance and emissions from contractors engaged in construction work.

Thereafter during normal allotment activities:

- Minimise waste & recycle/ compost where practicable.
- Selection of materials and consumables from sustainable sources where practicable.
- Use of plumbed toilet blocks/ composting toilets where practicable.
- Advise plot holders, visitors and the local community on the benefits of organic vegetables.
- Encourage the use of brown water and the production/ use of internally generated compost.
- Prevent the use of any chemicals that will have a long lasting detrimental effect on soil or any watercourse.
- Minimise adverse impacts on the local environment.

Our efforts will focus on enhancing the knowledge and understanding of plot holders, local community and stakeholders in respect of sustainable activity. This activity will empower NAS to actively contribute with the local community and add value to the sustainability debate, influencing the decision makers. NAS will actively promote the provision of 'community plots' to encourage the involvement of local groups/ children with the benefits of 'growing their own' vegetables.

This policy statement will be reviewed annually at the Annual General Meeting (or EGM if required) to ensure its continuing effectiveness. This will include discussions of any environmental incidents together with preventative measures.