

EFT Environmental Policy

Care for the environment is part of the fundamental ethic of the Eternal Forest Trust. The business was set up in order to provide an environmentally responsible way of dealing with death, and to enable mourners to actively support biodiversity by choosing woodland burial.

In all aspects of its activity, the Eternal Forest Trust seeks to minimise negative impact on the biosphere. This philosophy is reflected in the following policies:

Natural Environment and Nature

- The Eternal Forest Trust will aim to enhance the biodiversity of any land it manages by providing and improving habitat for native species.
- Biocides (including fungicides, herbicides and insecticides) will not be used in any form.
- Chemically treated cadavers, such as embalmed bodies, will not be accepted except under very restricted circumstances, as permitted by the Association of Natural Burial Grounds.
- The use of plastics and synthetic fibres will be avoided wherever possible, in favour of natural, biodegradable products.
- Materials with a high synthetic chemical content, such as MDF, will not be accepted. All coffins must be fully biodegradable.
- Any hardwoods used will be locally grown.
- Any bought-in trees or other plants will be native species, grown without biocides and sourced, whenever possible, from local growers.
- When working on the land, staff and volunteers will aim to minimise disruption to the local ecology.

Transport

- All car usage is private but staff will work towards reducing fuel consumption by combining journeys to sites and sharing vehicles.
- Travel outside the local area will be by public transport whenever possible.
- Walking and cycling will be encouraged.

Energy Consumption

- Lighting and other energy consuming equipment will be switched off when not in use.
- Energy efficiency will be a primary consideration when choosing any new electrical items and in construction or renovation of buildings.

- Greenhouse gas emission will be a primary consideration in choosing heating systems and whenever feasible, heat will be generated by heat pumps.

Other Consumption: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle

- Use of all synthetic products or substances – especially plastics – will be minimised.
- Eternal Forest Trust will aim to repair products in preference to replacing them.
- Use of packaging will be minimised and suppliers will be encouraged to minimise packaging of products bought by Eternal Forest Trust.
- Re-use of products will be encouraged whenever possible and potentially re-usable products such as printer cartridges will be given to organisations that can re-use them.
- Natural products will be composted whenever possible.
- Any waste that cannot be re-used or composted will be sorted and recycled if at all possible.

Office and Work Practices

- All cleaning products will be as environmentally friendly as possible.
- Cleaning products which cannot be re-used or recycled (such as wet wipes) will be avoided.
- Use of pressurised spray products will be avoided wherever possible.
- Paper use will be kept as low as possible, for example by printing on both sides of paper when feasible.
- The Charity will use recycled paper whenever this option is suitable for the use envisaged.
- The Charity will seek to buy from, and work with, environmentally concerned suppliers whenever possible and strengthen working relationships with organisations who share our ethic.
- Organically produced food and drink will be preferred.

Policy Implementation

- One or more named Environmental Policy Champions will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy on a day-to-day basis.
- An environmental audit will be carried out annually by the Policy Champion(s) to determine whether changes to our environmental practices are required, and to monitor the relevant course of action.

- All staff will be issued information on the course of action that they need to take and encouraged to implement the proposals within their daily working activities and areas of influence.
- It is the responsibility of the Policy Champion(s) to ensure adequate training of staff to enable implementation of the above policy aims.
- All staff are responsible for ensuring that all aspects of this policy are carried out in their area of work.

Date approved _____

Date of next review _____

Person responsible _____ **signed**

Print name

Date of change Changed by Policy approved by trustees