

OUR CHARTIST HERITAGE

Registered Charity Number: 1176673

Environmental Policy

Introduction

Our Chartist Heritage (OCH) is mindful that all citizens and the organisations to which they belong have a part to play in helping to achieve a Resilient Wales and a Globally Responsible Wales, as envisaged in The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 and The Environment (Wales) Act 2016. OCH is committed to re-evaluating its policies, procedures and working practices in order to identify ways in which it can prevent pollution, reduce waste and make a positive contribution to the protection of the environment of Wales and the well-being of its citizens through the enjoyment of green spaces. This policy indicates the steps OCH plans to take in order to make this happen.

Our commitment

The trustees will:

Awareness and commitment

- Promote awareness of the principles and objectives of environmental protection
- Ensure that trustees, members of sub-committees and volunteers are familiar with and implement this policy
- Promote awareness among the general public by publishing this policy and ensuring that the Newport Rising Bookstall stocks and promotes publications that encourage readers to speak out and take positive action in relation to the climate crisis
- Keep themselves, sub-committee members and other volunteers up-to-date von environmental issues and recommended changes to working practices

The Trustees will ensure that:

Energy and water

- Energy is used efficiently and wherever possible reduce its use, for example by turning off lights and heating when they are not necessary in any premises occupied by OCH and during live events indoors and outdoors
- Water is used efficiently and with care in any premises used by OCH and during live events indoors and outdoors and that pollutants do not enter the drainage system

Waste

- The production of material waste is reduced wherever possible, including unnecessary packaging
- Dispose of waste in a safe and responsible manner
- Ensure that recyclable items are disposed of in the recycling waste bin and not in general waste

Materials and resources

- Products are sourced that are made in accordance with the principle of using material in a sustainable way
- Locally produced goods are sourced where practicable

- OCH favours merchandise that is manufactured ethically using sustainably sourced materials
- Materials are re-used, repaired and recycled wherever possible
- All events directly organised by OCH avoid single-use plastic products and favour products that can be re-used and/or recycled
- The lifetime costs of materials are taken into account when repairing, altering or rebuilding premises
- The use of paper used from sustainable sources and recycled materials is maximised
- Waste paper is kept to a minimum by circulating papers for meetings electronically to those who are suitably equipped

Travel

- Trustees and volunteers conducting OCH business minimise carbon emissions whenever practicable, for example by avoiding unnecessary travel, using energy efficient vehicles, walking or cycling, using public transport, car-sharing and/or considering whether the business could be conducted virtually whenever appropriate
- Wherever possible, OCH holds events and activities at local venues and will use catering companies that procure sustainable/local/ethical food

Well-being

- OCH will organise heritage-related guided walks, dog-walks, mountain hikes, runs and cycle rides for the general public and targeted community groups and organisations to promote enjoyment of green spaces
- Recruits to the Watchdogs for Democracy dog-walking club will be issued with bio-degradable dog-waste bags in their membership packs (along with an ethically produced branded bandana, a copy in Welsh or English of the publication 'Voices for the Vote' and a copy of 'Teach your Dog Welsh')

Reviewed and approved on 25 April 2023

