

# **THE SOMERSET GARDEN COMPANY**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT**

**THE SOMERSET GARDEN COMPANY** believe that we have a responsibility to care for and protect the environment in which we operate. We are fully committed to improving environmental performance across all of our business activities, and will encourage our business partners and members of the wider community to join us in this effort.

**THE SOMERSET GARDEN COMPANY** recognises our key impacts to be in the areas of

- Energy use
- Raw material use
- Waste generation
- Emissions to air/water
- Water use
- Transport
- Procurement

We will strive to:

- Adopt the highest environmental standards in all areas of operation, meeting and exceeding all relevant legislative requirements.
- Assess our organisational activities and identify areas where we can minimise impacts.
- Minimise waste through careful and efficient use of all materials and energy.
- Purchase sustainable products wherever feasible [e.g. recycled, FSC or low environmental impact products and energy from renewable sources].
- Publicise our environmental position.
- Train employees in good environmental practice and encourage employee involvement in environmental action.
- Reduce risks from environmental, health or safety hazards for employees and others in the vicinity of our operations.
- Adopt an environmentally sound transport strategy.
- Aim to include environmental and ethical considerations in investment decisions where appropriate.
- Assist in developing solutions to environmental problems.

Continually assess the environmental impact of all our operations.

**THE SOMERSET GARDEN COMPANY** have developed a series of action plans to supplement each of our environmental policy objectives. These are as follows:

### **Raw material usage**

- Quantify quantities needed to avoid excess materials.
- Recycle excess materials.

### **Waste generation**

- Train staff and customers about recycling opportunities.
- Use specialist green recycling facilities where possible but always dispose of waste responsibly.
- Recycle on site using cuttings for compost or using mulching mowers when appropriate.
- Encourage regular maintenance to reduce waste quantities.

### **Emissions to air/water**

- Assess work site for possible risks of water contamination.

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- Regularly service tools and vehicles to reduce emissions.
- Calibrate chemical sprayers to ensure only the minimum amount required is used.
- Spray chemicals only when weather conditions are appropriate.
- Avoid the use of chemicals when possible.
- Dispose of chemicals and empty chemical containers (including oils and paints) at specialist recycling facilities.

### **Water use**

- Encourage the use of water butts and recycled water
- Use water only when necessary.
- Educate staff and customers about water retention methods and benefits of drought tolerant plants.
- Use water at times of the day when minimal evaporation will occur.
- Only use as much water as is needed.

### **Transport**

- Service vehicles regularly to maximise engine and tyre efficiency.
- Ensure staff drive smoothly to reduce fuel consumption.
- Plan daily activities to reduce millage.
- Reduce load weight when possible to reduce fuel consumption.

### **Procurement**

- Source local suppliers when possible.
- Ensure materials are from sustainable sources.
- Check that the suppliers environmental credentials are compatible with our own environmental objectives.

**THE SOMERSET GARDEN COMPANY** will periodically review performance and publish these results

STEPHEN JAMESON

Director

For **THE SOMERSET GARDEN COMPANY**

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