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# **ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT AND POLICY**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

At Mount Cook we are passionate about learning through adventure and introducing our clients to the remarkable Peak District landscape. Whilst providing adventurous activities we also endeavour to educate our groups and staff in the stewardship of our natural world and the fragility of its ecosystems. We aim to raise awareness and minimise our footprint in our local environment and community. Mount Cook takes its environmental responsibility and sustainability seriously.

This policy explains how Mount Cook takes care to maintain and proactively support our local environment and community and raise awareness amongst our staff and visiting groups.

## 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this statement and policy is to:

- Outline Mount Cook's commitment to environmental sustainability and provide an overview of their current achievements
- Provide a policy for staff to ensure the ongoing promotion of environmental sustainability amongst their clients and other stakeholders

## STATEMENT

### 3. PEAK DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MARK

Mount Cook have achieved this quality mark in recognition of their commitment to the environment and people, both globally and in the Peak District. As an award holder, Mount Cook have demonstrated that they conserve and enhance the special characteristic features of the Peak District National Park and use products grown or made locally, while achieving high standards of care for the environment in the more global sense.

The scheme is also validated by VisitEngland which means that it has gone through a rigorous verification process to ensure that the providers of the scheme operate to high standards.

### 4. SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE

Mount Cook are recognised by Surfers Against Sewage and have achieved their Plastic Free Champion Award

## 5. PARTNERS

Mount Cook are keen to support their neighbours and other partners.

Mount Cook is a Silver member of the Peak Park Foundation, this is the charitable arm of the Peak District which raises funds and awareness of the National Park.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are based within walking distance and Mount Cook take advice and advantage of their knowledge and work alongside them where they are able.

A local charity, Wild Roots Creative use Mount Cook's facilities for their Wildlife and Wellbeing project that supports local people who want to improve their mental health and wellbeing through outdoor activities.

Mount Cook also provide volunteering opportunities for local businesses which often involve sustainable projects, such as planting trees or maintaining the site.

## 6. ENERGY MANAGEMENT

As a new build (2016) Mount Cook has embraced a number of sustainable technologies.

Mount Cook's energy performance certificate (EPC) is A rated which is valid until 20 August 2027.

### **Warm Water**

Mount Cook utilizes thermal solar panels to create 12,195 kw hours of thermal solar energy annually, which is enough to heat 500 showers.

### **Lighting**

The photovoltaic solar panels create 20,000 kw hours of solar energy annually which is enough to power one light in every bedroom for a year.

Mount Cook uses motion sensors across our site to help save energy on lighting.

### **Heat**

Mount Cook uses heat from an air source heat pump to warm up the water in the underfloor heating.

### **Centre vehicle**

Mount Cook have an electric minibus which is charged via our photovoltaic cells on the building roof.

### **Educational information**

We provide information to our groups in our main communal area which captures the key energy efficient systems we have in place at Mount Cook.

## 7. REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS

Mount Cook strive to provide local activities and have developed their own site sympathetically with a wealth of options for engaging activities. Amongst other things, groups may participate in high adrenaline adventurous activities, team problem solving challenges, fun team games, bushcraft and an array of themed packages such as primitive living and experiencing life as a Viking. All these are site based with no need to use transport, thus reducing harmful emissions.

Mount Cook is well located within walking distance of offsite venues for climbing, abseiling, orienteering and guided nature/ecology/local history walks.

Furthermore, should groups wish to go a little further afield, Mount Cook is only 4 miles away from their nearest reservoir for water sports. Rather than owning their own minibuses (apart from their electric vehicle), Mount Cook arrange transport for groups who wish to utilise this facility. A local company is engaged for this purpose thus reducing the need for additional vehicles and supporting local businesses.

### **Suppliers**

Mount Cook review the credentials of their suppliers to ensure their environmental commitments are acceptable.

Mount Cook, where possible source their supplies locally, thus reducing the carbon footprint and supporting the local community. Currently a local dairy is used for milk and butter.

Mount Cook contract Abbey Glen for their laundry who claim to be one of the most efficient, environmentally conscious independent laundries in the country. They have excellent sustainability credentials as listed on their website [AbbeyGlen](#)

Mount Cook have recently started contracting with Ecolab for all their cleaning products. Ecolab have won awards for their sustainable cleaning products.

## **8. RECYCLING**

Mount Cook recycle where possible.

A hydration station is available for drinking water and groups are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.

Guests are encouraged to recycle plastic, paper and metal in the bins provided.

Mount Cook contract with Peak Waste who provide recycling bins for plastic, glass, cardboard/paper. Peak Waste pass any mixed waste through a picking line where recyclable material is removed, it is then shredded, “trommelled” to remove the smaller fractions and then it passes through a second picking line and a magnet.

Mount Cook and have recently introduced food recycling which complies with the new food recycling legislation which comes into effect on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. They contract with Keenan Recycling who use technology to convert the waste into biogas which can be used for electricity, heat or biofuel in transport.

## **9. EDUCATION**

Mount Cook promote and develop environmental knowledge to all staff and visiting groups. Staff share knowledge about the local eco-systems and the important role played by plants, insects, birds and animals. Based on the site of an old limestone quarry, Mount Cook is steeped in geological and industrial history providing an excellent backdrop for teaching and sharing knowledge with all groups visiting the site.

Staff talk about the impact that we can have on our environment and how we can contribute to its future.

Whilst on local offsite activities groups are made aware of the Countryside Code, which raises awareness of enjoying the outdoors whilst protecting the environment and respecting others and those who live and work there.

Groups are taught about the 7 principles of “Leave no Trace” which not only supports the local environment but educates the groups attending Mount Cook to support the wider environment once they leave.

Mount Cook employ activities that promote “Nature Connectedness” which enable groups and individuals to actively connect their senses with their surrounding environment. These types of activities can have a long-lasting impact with people promoting a greater appreciation of their environment. This can in turn lead to a deeper awareness and care for conservation.

## **10. FUTURE**

Mount Cook is a developing site and each and every improvement is carefully planned with due consideration to its environmental impact and energy efficiency criteria.

Care is taken at every stage to support and promote the biodiversity of the site and appreciate its beauty and fragility. For example, bird boxes and hides have been erected, the onsite pond is carefully maintained to support its wildlife, trees are nurtured and fossil remains are left in situ and all is used for educational purposes.

## **POLICY**

All staff and visiting groups are actively encouraged to:

### **11. REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY**

- Turning off /down heating when not needed
- Turning off computers overnight
- Turning off lights when not needed
- Not leaving phone chargers plugged into sockets when not in use
- Not using more water than needed, for instance when using the kettle
- Keeping doors closed to retain heat

### **12. REDUCE PAPER CONSUMPTION THROUGH**

- Printing fewer documents if they can be stored electronically
- Double-sided printing
- Printing final copies only, rather than draft copies
- E-mailing documents rather than posting them
- Laminating documents to use multiple times, eg task briefs

### **13. LOOK TO RECYCLE WASTE WHEREVER POSSIBLE**

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Plastics
- Compostable and other food stuffs
- Tins /other metals
- Glass

### **14. ENSURE WATER CONSUMPTION IS KEPT TO A MINIMUM**

- Put capacity reducers in cisterns

- Don't run the tap when washing pots. Use either a bowl or dishwasher

#### **15. REDUCE FUEL CONSUMPTION**

- Look to introduce fuel –efficient transport and, where possible, change to environmentally friendly fuels
- Try not to make unnecessary journeys
- Combine trips and journeys where possible
- Drive in a fuel-efficient manner

#### **16. SUPPLIERS**

- Increasingly use local suppliers and fair-trade suppliers for our perishable products
- Ensure that suppliers use sustainable practices
- Comply with all environmental legislation and regulations

#### **17. EDUCATION**

- Promoting conservation to be embedded in all group activities with particular attention to:
  - The Countryside Code
  - The 7 principles of “Leave no Trace”
  - Looking for opportunities for “Nature Connectedness” activities
  - Raising knowledge and showing passion for the local and global environment and its conservation

#### **18. GENERAL**

- Ensure that our outdoor activities in the countryside have minimal impact on the environment
- Raise awareness of staff and visiting groups of their responsibilities to make an effective contribution to environmental improvement, both at work and within their local community
- Ensure that all our proposals consider the environmental impact of our actions