



The Learning Farm - Environmental Policy

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| Operational Owner | Nicky Cummings |
| Effective date: | 01/09/2025 |
| Review date: | 01/08/2026 (annually) |
| Related documents | Safeguarding Policy Student and staff expectations document Environmental Policy Emergency Policy Infection Control policy Fire Risk Policy Health & Safety Policy |

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out the **environmental expectations** The Learning Farm has for all aspects of its interactions with students, staff, volunteers, and any assigned representatives working on behalf of The Learning Farm.

Policy Statement

The Learning Farm is committed to providing outstanding animal care while operating to the **highest environmental and sustainability standards**.

Our mission is to:

- Protect and enhance the surrounding environment
- Reduce our carbon footprint
- Ensure all activities support a greener future

This commitment benefits our animals, staff, visitors, and the local ecosystem.

Key Objectives

The Learning Farm aims to:

- Minimise waste generation and maximise recycling opportunities
- Reduce consumption of natural resources, including electricity, water, and fuel
- Prevent pollution of local soil and watercourses
- Enhance biodiversity and improve soil health across the farm's land

Policy Areas and Implementation

Animal Welfare and Environmental Enrichment

Welfare Standards

All animals are cared for in accordance with:

- The **Animal Welfare Act 2006**
- The **Five Freedoms**, ensuring freedom from:
 - Hunger and thirst
 - Discomfort
 - Pain, injury, or disease
 - Fear and distress
 - Restriction from expressing normal behaviour

Grazing Management

- Rotational grazing is used to promote soil health and diverse pasture growth
- This approach reduces the need for artificial fertilisers and supports sustainable land management

Waste Management and Recycling

Waste Segregation

- Clear systems are in place to segregate waste into designated receptacles, including:
 - General waste
 - Recycling
 - Hazardous waste
 - Clinical waste

Hazardous Waste

- Hazardous materials (including veterinary medicines and sharps) are disposed of safely and in compliance with relevant regulations

Manure Management

- Manure and used bedding are stored and managed appropriately
- Storage areas are positioned away from watercourses to prevent contamination

Resource and Energy Efficiency

Energy Use

- Renewable energy sources are used where possible
- Energy-saving practices are encouraged, including switching off lights and equipment when not in use

Water Management

- Streams and rivers are fenced off to prevent direct livestock access
- Water bowls and troughs are used to minimise contamination and water waste

Biosecurity and Disease Prevention

Pest Control

- A humane and effective pest control programme is implemented
- Inhumane methods, such as glue traps, are not used

Hygiene Protocols

- Strict hygiene and biosecurity measures are enforced
- Cleaning and disinfectant materials are provided for all staff and visitors
- These measures reduce the risk of disease transmission between animals and people

Land and Biodiversity Management

Habitat Creation

- Land is managed to encourage the return of wildlife and native plant species
- Biodiversity enhancement is a key aim across the farm

Wildlife Protection

- Hunting of wild birds is prohibited
- Protective measures are in place for amphibians and other wildlife during activities such as pond dipping

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be **reviewed regularly**, at least annually, to ensure it:

- Reflects best environmental practice
- Aligns with current regulations
- Supports The Learning Farm's ongoing commitment to environmental improvement