

Bendrigg environmental policy

Policy owner	Facilities Manager
Next review	January 2027
Related Policies	

1. Introduction

This policy sets out how Bendrigg will protect and enhance the environment while delivering inclusive outdoor experiences. It applies to all activities on-site and off-site that are controlled by the Trust, including procurement and contractor works.

2. Legal & Regulatory Compliance

Bendrigg will identify and comply with applicable environmental legislation and relevant guidance, including (as applicable):

- Environmental Protection Act 1990 (including Duty of Care for waste).
- Waste Duty of Care: Code of Practice (England & Wales).
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH).
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Natural England standing advice for protected species/habitats.
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations (WEEE).
- Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP21) – Pollution incident response planning.

3. Policy Commitments & Objectives

Bendrigg commits to continual environmental improvement and prevention of pollution.

Objectives will be set and reviewed annually covering:

- Energy & carbon: Reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions; pursue viable onsite renewables, such as solar panelling.
- Water: Reduce consumption, prevent pollution to surface water and ground, promptly fix leaks.
- Waste & resources: Follow the hierarchy (prevent, reduce, reuse, recycle), ensure legal compliant storage/transfer and treatment.
- Biodiversity: Protect and enhance woodland, meadows and habitats; time works to avoid harm to protected species and control invasive species.
- Procurement: Support local and sustainable products/services and reduce single-use plastics.
- Transport: Encourage car sharing, active travel and the use of public transport. Optimise fleet use for centre-based transportation.

4. Biodiversity & Land Management

We will maintain a biodiversity register and habitat management plan for woodland and meadows, schedule grounds tasks to avoid nesting/breeding seasons, and seek ecological advice where works may affect protected species or habitats. We will increase native planting, create or enhance habitats, and avoid peat-based products.

5. Waste & Resource Management

We will:

- Ensure licensed carriers and sites are used, retain waste transfer notes and hazardous consignment documentation - as required.
- Minimise single-use plastics, increase reuse and recycling rates year-on-year.
- Manage hazardous wastes (e.g., oils, paints, chemicals) safely and legally.

6. Water & Pollution Prevention

We will prevent pollution through safe storage of fuels/chemicals, secondary containment where required, and good housekeeping. We will maintain spill kits at risk locations and implement a Pollution Incident Response Plan with staff trained in spill response and reporting.

7. Sustainable Procurement & Contractors

Contracts and purchase decisions will consider all environmental impacts. Contractors working on-site must comply with this policy, legal obligations, and site environmental controls (e.g. waste segregation, spill prevention, protected species constraints).

8. Training & Awareness

All staff and volunteers will receive environmental awareness at induction and periodic refreshers. Task-specific training will be provided for activities with elevated environmental risk (e.g. chemical handling, spill response, waste management).

9. Environmental Emergency Preparedness

We will maintain and test a Pollution Incident Response Plan (e.g. for spills or firewater runoff), identify drains and receptors, and coordinate with emergency services where appropriate. Spill kits and trained responders will be available at high-risk locations.

10. Roles & Responsibilities

- Trustees: Provide oversight and ensure adequate resources for environmental management.
- Facilities Manager: Oversees delivery and reporting.
- Supervisors: Ensure compliance within their areas and engage staff/volunteers.
- All Staff & Volunteers: Follow this policy, training, and site instructions. Report spills/incidents/near misses promptly.
- Contractors: Comply with legal requirements and site environmental rules. Provide method statements addressing environmental risks.

11. Monitoring, KPIs & Reporting

We will track and report progress at least annually to Trustees, including:

- Energy consumption (kWh)
- Renewable generation (kWh), when in place.
- Waste: General waste, recycling and hazardous waste compliance.
- Biodiversity: Number of habitat actions completed and any survey outcomes.
- Incidents/near misses and corrective actions taken and training completion rates.

12. Communication

This policy will be made available to staff, volunteers, contractors, visitors and the public. A one-page summary will be displayed in staff/visitor areas and on our website (Appendix 1).

13. Continual Improvement & EMS Alignment

We will use a plan-do-check-act approach and review environmental aspects and compliance annually. Where proportionate, we will align with ISO 14001 principles (context, leadership, planning, operation, performance evaluation, improvement).

Bendrigg Trust: Environmental Policy, summary

Our Commitment

We protect and enhance the environment across all Bendrigg Trust operations, ensuring our activities, estate management and visitor experiences are sustainable, safe and legally compliant.

What We Focus On

- Reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, progressing solar energy where viable.
- Protecting woodland, meadows, wildlife and habitats; avoiding harm to protected species.
- Minimising waste: Reduce, reuse, recycle. Safe handling of hazardous waste.
- Preventing pollution through safe chemical/fuel storage, spill kits and trained responders.
- Using sustainable procurement and local suppliers where practical.
- Reducing water use and preventing contamination of drains, streams and groundwater.
- Encouraging low-impact travel (car-share, public transport, efficient fleet use).

Legal Responsibilities

We comply with key environmental legislation including:

- Environmental Protection Act 1990 – waste duty of care & pollution control.
- COSHH – safe use, storage and disposal of hazardous substances.
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – protected species & habitat protection.
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations.
- Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP21) – spill response planning.

Your Responsibilities

- Follow site instructions, signage and staff guidance.
- Segregate waste properly; never mix hazardous waste with general waste.
- Report spills, leaks or environmental concerns immediately.
- Respect wildlife, habitats and restricted areas.
- Use chemicals, fuels and equipment only as trained/briefed.

How We Monitor Progress

- Energy use, carbon emissions.
- Waste management, recycling and hazardous waste compliance.
- Biodiversity actions completed and the condition of our site's habitats.
- Environmental incidents, near misses and corrective actions.

Need Help or Want to Report an Issue

Contact: Facilities Manager / Duty Manager (available on-site or via reception).

Examples to report: Spills, blocked drains, unusual wildlife activity, chemical concerns, damaged storage containers, smoke/odour incidents, waste issues.