

Environmental & Energy Efficiency Policy

Purpose

Needingworth Village Hall Trust has drawn up this policy to act as a comprehensive roadmap designed to guide the Trust towards a sustainable and ecologically responsible future. It outlines our commitment to minimising our environmental footprint by embracing renewable energy sources, reducing waste generation, optimising resource utilisation, and promoting environmental practices across all levels of our services. Through collaboration with committee members, volunteers, groups, organisations or individuals the Trust will seek to implement all cost-efficient improvement measures as recommended in the energy efficiency audit report (Sept 2023).

Signed: (On behalf of the Trust) Debbie Williams

Position: Chair

Date adopted and signed: confirmed in monthly committee meeting on the 21st November 2024.

This document will be reviewed bi-annually or when changes occur which may impact the policy e.g. change in definition as in statute.

The next review is due on the 21st November 2027

Our Aim:

Our aims can be grouped under two headings:

- **Energy Conservation:** To reduce our collective carbon footprint as far as possible.
- **Efficient Use of Resources:** Minimising our use of non-energy resources, including the removal of all single use plastic.

These objectives will be achieved through three avenues:

1. **Immediate Implementation:** Altering the Trust's internal processes.
2. **Partnership:** Advocating the Trust's principle of minimising carbon footprint whenever achievable and prioritising the engagement of local tradespeople and services.
3. **Information Dissemination:** Efficiently conveying the Trust's resolutions and putting our initiatives into action.

Energy Conservation

Harnessing the advantages of energy conservation yields numerous rewards. As a community-based entity, the Trust is dedicated to significantly curbing our carbon dioxide emissions, recognising that every local effort contributes to this vital objective. Given the escalating energy expenses, particularly burdening the Trust, the path forward foresees even greater costs. Consequently, each step we take to diminish energy usage directly benefits our financial allocations.

The Trust will strive for this goal through the following avenues:

- Supervising energy usage within its direct control and endeavouring to cut down consumption where feasible, while adopting energy-efficient techniques – such as installing sensor activated timed lighting.
- Motivating Committee members to lead by example in lessening their individual carbon footprints—such as opting to walk or car share to the village hall where possible.
- Adoption of renewable energy sources such as solar panels and ground-source/ air source heat pumps.

Efficient Use of Resources

Everything we use and consume has an environmental cost attached to it. The Trust understands those costs and seek to reduce them by limiting consumption of resources, eliminating waste as far as possible, and increasing re-cycling.

As a community group the Trust will encourage and support national goals to develop more sustainable lifestyles.

The Trust will pursue this objective in the following ways:

- By reducing the Trusts own consumption of water, paper and other consumables.
- By assessing the energy efficiency of all goods and services purchased by the Trust
- By raising the level of recycling and thereby reduce waste going into landfill.
- By encouraging committee members, volunteers, groups, organisations and individuals to reduce resource consumption.