

PITSTONE GREEN MUSEUM

Environmental Policy Issue 1 12th July 2012

1. Introduction

These days all organisations need to be aware of their potential impact on the environment. With a background of ever increasing world population and its consequent ever increasing demand for energy and resources all organisations need to plan their operations within the constraints of minimising both energy usage and waste of resources.

2. Aims and objectives

2 (a) Energy.

The museum's main use of energy is for lighting. As the museum is housed mainly in redundant farm buildings, many of them listed, most of the exhibit areas are either windowless or with a minimum admission of daylight. When the museum is open to the public it is necessary to increase the level of illumination of both buildings and artefacts for the public to both enjoy and appreciate the collection. The overwhelming majority of light sources are of the gas discharge type, either traditional fluorescent tubes or the modern low energy bulbs. Tungsten filament bulbs are only used where there are no cost effective alternatives, and even the lower energy tungsten halogen bulbs are currently being phased out as their efficiency is not significantly greater. The museum is aware of the development of led lighting and is closely monitoring the prices and availability of these devices.

Heating energy usage is minimal on the museum site. In very cold winter weather background heating is used continually in the reception/toilets area to avoid burst water pipes, and other areas of the museum where there is piped water this is turned off and the pipes drained. The office area also has a background heater to keep temperatures above freezing.

On public open days there can be significant use of liquid and gaseous fuels to demonstrate the running of old engines and/or vehicles, but the museum's main use of such fuels is for cutting the grass in the extensive car parks and orchards throughout the non-winter months. There is also a wood-burning stove in use in one of the workshops but this only burns scrap offcuts of wood produced by the museum.

2 (b) Waste.

The museum has had a policy for separating and disposing of recyclable materials for many years. Bottles, cans, and other recyclable containers from both customers and the catering department are kept separate and disposed of via local authority channels. Scrap metals from museum building and modernisation projects are stock piled until there is a sufficient quantity of each when they are sold to scrap metal dealers to provide a small but useful addition to museum funds.

Food waste from catering is an absolute minimum and what little there is has to go to landfill.

3. Conclusion

The museum staff are well aware of the need for energy and resource conservation and will continue to operate such a conservation policy.

This Policy was adopted by the Executive Committee of Pitstone & Ivinghoe Museum Society on 12th July 2012.

Signed Chairman