

# Grow Community - Sopwell's Environmental Policy

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Changes made in 2025 review:

- Additional reference made to benches by Community Garden
- Amendment of having a hard copy at all events (given the environmental and financial cost of printing) to access to the online copy with a printed copy available on request

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## 1. The purpose of Grow Community – Sopwell's Environmental Policy

This Environmental Policy document (also referred to as just “Policy”) aims to set out how we believe Grow Community – Sopwell (also referred to as just “the community group”) may impact the local and wider environment and given that impact, the responsibilities we believe that have in minimising negative whilst encouraging positive environmental outcomes. We aim for the document to be easy to read and easy to understand, so that the Policy can have meaningful influence on the planning and strategic development of the community group.

## 2. Our Environmental Values

We want to help our community live happy, healthy lives. To do this, we recognise the need for a pleasant local environment that enriches where we live. We believe we have a responsibility to the local community and to the wider environment that means we should aim to live and work in a sustainable way, and to encourage others to do so.

Problems such as single-use plastics and other waste, increased scarcity of water, food miles, toxins in chemicals used in food growing, extinction of species, increases in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions made worse with car use and unsustainable heating solutions are all leading to significant problems for both people and wildlife and significantly impact the planet.

We believe that community group has a role and a responsibility in encouraging good environmental stewardship. We must consider the environment in the decisions we make, whether in development or

running of the community group and encourage others to do so. We would like to lead by example but recognise the need and importance of local partners in making this happen.

### **3. The scope of Grow Community - Sopwell's Environmental Policy**

The community group could negatively directly affect the local environment, particularly in the areas of:

- noise
- litter
- air quality
- carbon emissions

There could also be wider negative impacts from the community group's procurement and use of

- materials and services
- energy
- water

The community group can positively influence how the Community engages with sustainable living through:

- bringing isolated people together to strengthen local community networks,
- choosing ethical and environmentally concerned partners,
- ensuring members are encouraged to consider their environmental impacts and live sustainably,
- encouraging local people, including children, to make better use of the Community Open Spaces, increasing access to exercise, knowledge and involvement with local natural habitats,
- offering training and education for members and local residents.

### **4. Our Environmental Objectives and how we aim to achieve them**

In addition to meeting current relevant environmental legislation, Grow Community - Sopwell aims to meet the following objectives:

<b>Area of impact</b>	<b>Our Objective</b>	<b>Examples of how we will achieve the Objective</b>
1) Noise	a) To be good neighbours.	i. To set curfews for noise-

		<p>making activity at community events.</p> <p>ii. To consider local residents when making decisions on activities.</p> <p>iii. To provide opportunities for local residents to feedback on activities.</p>
2) Litter	b) Community group waste is disposed of responsibly, within a wider aim of refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, recover and recycle.	<p>iv. Responsible on-site disposal of green waste generated on site through composting.</p> <p>v. Encourage local litter picks in partnership with the local residents' association.</p> <p>vi. Given the bench as a potential locus for rubbish, provision of a rubbish receptacle near the seating area.</p>
3) Air quality	c) Reduce local air pollution.	<p>vii. Provide local activities that are walkable within the Sopwell area.</p> <p>viii. Encourage sustainable forms of transport.</p>
4) Materials and services procurement and use	<p>d) Aim to make use of pre-used materials wherever possible</p> <p>e) Reduce waste going to landfill by aiming to refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, recover and recycle.</p>	ix. To consider environmental impact alongside cost when procuring materials and services e.g. sustainable materials; reusable rather than plastic.
5) Energy procurement and use	<p>f) Reduce overall energy use on heating and lighting.</p> <p>g) Where possible, reduce energy procured from unsustainable sources.</p>	<p>x. Consider energy saving whenever the community group meets</p> <p>xi. Consider sustainability of energy generation alongside cost when choosing venues.</p> <p>xii. Encourage users and members to think about their energy use e.g through online posts reminding them to turn off lighting.</p>
6) Water procurement and use	<p>h) Reduce overall water use.</p> <p>i) Where possible, reuse water on site.</p>	<p>xiii. Consider water saving as part of the community group planning process and, where practical, include as part of the design e.g. water butts.</p> <p>xiv. Encourage members and users to think about their water use e.g. through posters reminding them to not leave taps running.</p>
7) Partners	j) To work with partners to effectively identify and	xv. Ensure builders to consider the environmental impact in

	implement ways to improve a the community group's environmental sustainability.	developing any infrastructure required, in their work. xvi. To identify suitable partners and advisors (e.g. Sustainable St Albans) that can help identify ways to increase the environmental sustainability of the community group. xvii. Where possible, work in concert with partners to implement suggestions.
8) Members and users	k) To encourage members and users of the community group to support the group in increasing its environmental sustainability.	xviii. A hard copy of the Environmental Policy will be available whenever the community group meet. xix. An online public copy of the Policy will be available.
9) Training and education	l) To include environmental concerns in training and education provided for members and users of the community group.	xx. A hard copy of the Environmental Policy will be available whenever the community group meet. xxi. Where appropriate, provide relevant information on local environmental matters. xxii. Where appropriate, to identify opportunities to take part in environmental events or support member and users in taking part in environmental events e.g. Sustainable St Albans.

## 5. The Policy as a Living Document

It is the responsibility of the Trustees to adopt and implement this Policy.

Once adopted, the Policy should be reviewed at least every three years, and amended where necessary.

The Policy should also be reviewed where significant changes are made to either the planning or running of the community group.

Copies of the Policy should be available online for the public at events, and in hard copy upon request for users of the Community Group events.