

Orchard Acre Farm

Environmental Policy Statement



The aim of this environmental policy is ensure YOU that our service and products simply do not cost the earth.

To achieve this Orchard Acre Farm conducted an audit of its products and practises 2001.

As environmental science graduates ourselves, we set the standards for ourselves to achieve . We understand fully that everything we do has an impact and our mission is to minimise negative impacts.

So we modified many features of the existing farm infrastructure, we added double glazing, insulation, changed our energy sources and any goods needing replaced they were renewed with A rated equipment.

We have enhanced the local biodiversity of the area with improvements to the farm and immediate locality, using native species and adding habitats.

So what do we do regarding our day to day management ?

All new purchases, new infrastructure or buildings and services are assessed for the highest environmental sustainability.

We look at where and how the items are made and what impacts they will have in their lifetime and how they can be properly recycled or disposed of when done.

Please find below a summarised list of our standards and targets.

Green Awards to date for the business

- Green business Award Ireland 2011
- Green Business finalist for NI 2010
- Winner of Northern Irelands most Sustainable Building Award 2009
- Green building short listed and finalist for Ireland 2008
- Action Renewables for solar hot water system 2004

Please read below why we receive awards for our standards

Energy Conservation

- ✓ by design South facing passive solar gain for the Eco Barn new build (the first step to energy conservation)
- ✓ Solar Hot water systems in both the farmhouse and Eco Barn
- ✓ Above UK standard levels of insulation in the farm house and barn
- ✓ 100% of bulbs are energy efficient as standard
- ✓ 100% windows are double glazed as standard with Pingkington K gas for added energy conservation
- ✓ ALL electricity is from, Airtricity SSE (nearest wind farms at LACK)
- ✓ 80% of heating is renewable fuels ie wood burning stoves in Eco Barn and farmhouse
- ✓ Energy efficient condensing Gas (farmhouse) and diesel oil (barn) 85% efficiency as back up
- ✓ 100% of a white goods and equipment are European A or B grade energy efficient as standard
- ✓ All paints and wood treatments are low VOC Ecos and Auro and at times B&Q

Waste

The Farm strictly follows the **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle** policy in that order.

- ✓ 100% food waste is reused on the farm
- ✓ 100% of organic materials (vegetable waste) is composted on the farm
- ✓ 97% recycling takes place at the premises . Crinkly plastic cannot be recycled

- ✓ We are supported by recycling doorstep collection by FDC or at the local recycling depot (2.5 miles away). This includes glass, paper, cooking oil, car oils, plastic, batteries, bulbs, cardboard, wood, metals and exception crinkly plastic

Transport and Carbon Reduction

- ✓ All personnel and associates for OAF use public transport as their first preference
- ✓ Car sharing and pooling when public transport is not available is prioritised over single occupancy
- ✓ All personnel are encouraged to use telephone conferencing, make extensive use of email and minimise the need for car based journeys for meetings.
- ✓ Walking and cycling as a means of transport is actively encouraged. We supply bikes for residential guests.

Office; Hardware and Food Supplies

- ✓ All foods are on farm , organic, fair trade and locally supplied and produced
- ✓ All papers used are from POST CONSUMER WASTE (genuine recycled; not off cuts from virgin paper)
- ✓ All one sided print material is are reused for draft work and rough copies
- ✓ All cartridges are recycled, refilled by Hewlett Packard “donate to charity project”
- ✓ Paper use is minimised by use of email, rewritable CDs and memory sticks
- ✓ All building materials are reused, recycled or reclaimed from salvage & new
- ✓ Timber products are FSC
- ✓ Stone, sand, building products are purchased locally within 5 mile radius to reduce road miles

Horticultural and farming goods and services

- ✓ We purchase our seeds and plant materials from: The Real Seed Company , Garden Organic and the Organic Centre at Rossinver Co Leitrim
- ✓ We manufacture our own liquid fertiliser from comfrey plants
- ✓ We have our own animal sourced manure
- ✓ We make our own compost
- ✓ We do not use chemical or artificial compounds
- ✓ We are food growers and food suppliers
- ✓ Animals are cared for compassionately
- ✓ Animals are NOT fed GMO foods
- ✓ Animals are bedded in straw.

Seeds etc

- ✓ 98% of our seed use is NON F1Hybrids. The exception to this are cucumbers *non hybrid are a total pain.*
- ✓ Biological controls are used for pest problems
- ✓ Peat based compost is avoided.
- ✓ We assist many local gardens with seed sourcing and advice on plant varieties

Food and Ingredients for catering

- ✓ We grow 45% of the food on the farm for use by visitors to the farm. (zero food miles)
- ✓ We source additional items such as meat fish and dairy from within a 20 mile radius
- ✓ We shop with independent shops , using Lidl as a preferred choice over Tesco or Asda, because of the their support for Irish farmers and food growers.
- ✓ We use SUMA a workers co operative in Halifax for Dry goods such as flour and rice. Bringing together a collaborative order with neighbours we can have the food delivered centrally to the farm.
- ✓ All tea and coffee is fair trade AND organic as standard
- ✓ We purchase Tate and Lyle sugar that is sourced from sugar beet, a UK grown product and better environmentally or organic sugar from non UK sources in that priority
- ✓ The priority of food purchase is as follows; Our own farm, local suppliers, organic and fair trade