
TL2 Environmental Policy

Mission statement

Our core purpose is to help and support community action in order to respond effectively and positively to climate change and peak oil.

We intend to raise awareness in the Llandeilo area to the issues of climate change and peak oil and to provide a framework for an effective response to the challenges of climate change and peak oil, including the creation of an Energy Descent Plan

We aim to do this by connecting with people and groups already engaged with these issues and working with them, by empowering people in the Llandeilo area by offering information, support and an framework for positive action.

Introduction

Transition town Llandeilo recognises the importance of promoting, protecting and enhancing the environment as an essential prerequisite, together with social and economic measures, of engaging in and bringing about sustainable development. To this end **Transition town Llandeilo** is committed in all its activities to ensuring that it acts to **increase, conserve or promote awareness of:**

- **bio-diversity**
- **natural resources**
- **the philosophy and ethics of reduce , reuse and recycle**
- **the environment and sustainable development**
- **the aesthetic qualities of the environment, both natural and built**

Transition town Llandeilo regards action to conserve or create a sustainable environment as an essential component of community development activity. Individuals and communities cannot exercise full and meaningful control over their own lives if they do not also have a measure of responsibility and the capacity to influence their own

environment. **Transition town Llandeilo** is committed to making its own work an example of best practice for other groups in the area. In its work with other community organisations and voluntary groups it will encourage them to take the broadest possible view of their objectives and activities and to develop integrated policies and strategies which take the social, economic and environmental context of their work in to consideration.

Responsibilities: This commitment affects all members of **Transition town Llandeilo**. The responsibility for implementing this policy lies with the members of the steering group

Specific working practices and Commitments

Purchases and Supply

- Wherever possible purchases will be from locally manufactured or available products and services.
- Ensure that all purchases of paper are of those that contain a significant proportion of re-cycled material (we will aim for 100%) preferably from post-consumer waste.
- All paper purchased will be of the lowest grade compatible with the intended use.
- **Transition town Llandeilo** will not purchase tropical hardwood from unsustainable sources and will instead seek to use locally (Wales) sourced hardwood or that from other sustainable temperate sources.
- All cleaning products purchased by **Transition town Llandeilo** will be as environmentally friendly as possible. Preference will be given to pump action (re-usable) aerosols and non-spray products (e.g. furniture wax) will be used
- No use will be made of peat or peat based products except where accepted by the Soil Association.

Natural Environment

- Where appropriate **Transition town Llandeilo** will ensure that ecological surveys are undertaken and the results incorporated into the planning and development of a project.
- **Transition town Llandeilo** will make maximum use of native local provenance trees or local varieties and shrub species in its practical projects
- COSHH regulations and Countryside Council for Wales recommendations for the use of herbicides and other chemicals will be upheld.
- **Transition town Llandeilo** will give consideration to becoming a member of an appropriate local, specialist organisation working to conserve and enhance the local environment.

Transport

- **Transition town Llandeilo** will encourage the use of bicycles or walking for short trips and public transport for longer journeys
- Work towards reducing fuel consumption by vehicle sharing, combining journeys, good planning and regular maintenance of vehicles.
- **Transition town Llandeilo** does not currently own vehicles but will ensure that future purchases take environmental performance into account.

Recycling

- **Transition town Llandeilo** will adopt a basic strategy of **reduce, reuse and recycle**
- **Transition town Llandeilo** will set up systems and operations to ensure that as much of its waste as possible is recycled and recognises that sorting of its waste is a critical factor in achieving this.

Energy

*Although it has no property at present, in future **Transition Town Llandeilo** will seek to minimise power consumption by*

- Ensuring the correct installation and operation of all electrical and fuel consuming devices

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- All new electrical items to be purchased on the basis of their energy efficiency where possible.
 - Lighting and other equipment to be switched off when not in use
 - Consideration will be given to purchasing all electricity under a “green generation” option.
 - When considering the renovation of a property or a new build *Transition town Llandeilo* will ensure that the equipment and construction specifications ensure low energy consumption.

Relationships with Others

- ***Transition town Llandeilo*** will not undertake to work for any group, client or organisation if there is reason to believe that they are pursuing or likely to pursue activities that will cause unnecessary and avoidable damage to the environment and where ***Transition town Llandeilo*** is unlikely to be able to exert a positive influence on the situation.
- The steering group shall be entitled to withdraw ***Transition town Llandeilo*** from any organisation which cannot be persuaded to refrain from activities which cause unnecessary or avoidable environmental damage, provided that there are no legal or contractual implications in doing so. If there would be legal or contractual implications in withdrawing from a project on these grounds, the steering group will inform decide what action to take in the best interests of the environmental policy and of ***Transition town Llandeilo's*** reputation.
- **Contracts with others:** Any individual or organisations contracted to work for ***Transition town Llandeilo*** will be expected to comply with this policy

Monitoring

Transition town Llandeilo will monitor the application of this policy on an annual basis to ensure that its practices comply with the requirements of the Policy. A designated steering group member will report on any major issues arising in relation to the policy in a report to the steering group.

In due course ***Transition town Llandeilo*** will consider setting specific targets by which performance against this policy can be more closely monitored and evaluated

Promotion

All members will receive a copy of this policy and will be made aware of its content and requirements.