



## **Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh Environmental Policy Statement**

As a leading centre for biodiversity research, horticulture, conservation and education, and a major visitor attraction on its four sites, RBGE is committed to improving its environmental performance as part of a wider commitment to sustainability.

Recognising our role within the community we aspire to take a lead in the application of best practice, share our core values with our partners, reduce our impacts on the environment and promote resource efficiency. We believe this to be important not only in our work within the UK but also our work worldwide in exploring and explaining the world of plants.

Senior management acknowledge their responsibilities in delivering this policy and recognise the importance of engaging all staff in its implementation.

### **Principles**

In the application of this environmental policy we will:

- meet and where appropriate exceed requirements set out in current UK environmental legislation recognising that these reflect a wider set of global standards;
- seek to provide the necessary resources and training required for effective delivery;
- recognise that waste has an environmental impact and cost, and therefore seek to prevent it wherever possible through the adoption of the waste hierarchy of prevent, reduce, recover, re-use and re-cycle;
- recognise that water is essential to our business and therefore seek to be efficient in the way we manage this resource and control any resulting discharge;
- seek to minimise the impact that transport has on the environment through the support of more sustainable modes of travel;
- promote energy efficiency throughout our operations;
- seek to reduce all harmful emissions to the atmosphere;
- recognise that the nature of our business requires the occasional use of hazardous substances and therefore endeavour to minimise their use by actively seeking alternatives wherever possible;
- procure materials and services within a framework that encourages sustainability;
- recognise that our operations do have the potential to impact locally therefore we will endeavour to minimise potential nuisances such as noise, dust, litter, odour, light pollution and visual impact;
- enhance our role in promoting and protecting biodiversity both locally through the management of our sites in Scotland and internationally through our conservation work in the UK and worldwide;
- use the unparalleled opportunities as a major visitor attraction and provider of education at all levels to promote good environmental practice;
- achieve continual improvement through a cycle of audit and review.