

Moulsecoomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project Environmental and Sustainability Policy

The Moulsecoomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project is a community garden where we take pride in the work we do to benefit people and the environment. Our ethos is to ensure a net positive benefit from what we do and the way we do it.

We are committed to compliance with environmental legislation as a minimum, to pollution prevention and continuous improvement of our environmental and sustainability performance.

- We garden organically, with negligible chemical use. We use heritage and organic seeds and plants to promote biodiversity and reduce unintended consequences of potential neonicotinoids in commercial seeds
- Our cabin is constructed with local and sustainable materials, using traditional construction methods.
- Our project is entirely off-grid, and we use solar panels to power the little electricity we do use. Our gardening methods promote good soil health and structure, and we have a diverse range of trees to improve carbon sequestration and air quality.
- We reduce water use wherever we can, with a large-scale rainwater harvesting system and multiple water butts to supplement water availability; and we have a compost toilet.
- Our <u>Wildlife Management Plan 2020</u> informs the management of our site and surrounding area to promote biodiversity. It is designed to engage local people and schools in learning about nature. We support access to work in the conservation sector for local people.
- Garden equipment and supplies are selected by researching the best environmental option considering materials, energy use and end-of-life disposability
- We reduce waste wherever we can by thinking first before purchase or use. We select products that have minimum packaging, and actively discourage single use plastics. Organic food waste is composted on site. We support local re-use schemes and follow local guidelines to optimise recycling
- We play a positive role in the community by participating in relevant groups and sharing good practice

We review our policy regularly to make sure we keep up to date with current knowledge.

Signed by the Project Manager and Trustees

Julie Shergold Treasurer

Duncan Graham Cameron Company Secretary

Susie Howells *Chair*

Warren Carter Project Manager

Junie Howens

Date: 5 November 2024