



Snitterfield Village Hall

Registered Charity No: 523001

Environmental Policy

1. Introduction

Snitterfield Village Hall Management Committee (SVHMC) and the Sole Trustee are committed to protecting the environment and have been working alongside the award winning Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change (SACC) since 2010 to seek ways to reduce the carbon footprint of the village hall in as many ways as possible.

1. Aim

SVHMC will ensure that environmental priorities are integrated into the decisions it takes on its services and will seek to:

- reduce the environmental impact of the village hall by using sustainable solutions in every aspect of the management of the village hall
- promote environmental sustainability to all users of the village hall and the wider community
- ask for advice and help with all environmental aspects from SACC and other organisations and professionals
- use environmentally sustainable products within the hall and any work that takes place on the hall as far as it is possible to do so.

3. Objectives

Snitterfield Village Hall Management Committee shall:

- Make the most efficient use of energy and water.
- Endeavour to use the minimum quantities of energy possible in accordance with the safe and efficient operation of heating, lighting, plant, and machinery.
- From time to time review its energy sources, energy using appliances and energy efficiency with a view to causing the least environmental impact.
- Monitor consumption and eliminate excessive or unnecessary use.
- Communicate to hirers, volunteers, and staff how energy may be conserved, e.g., closing doors.
- Avoid waste and encourage the appropriate conservation, re-use, and recycling of resources.
- Ensure that the potential environmental impact of any building projects will be assessed and minimised. This will include, where possible, methods of construction which make best use of resources; designs which result in low maintenance and high energy efficiency and the use of building materials from sustainable sources such as timber. It will encourage volunteers, hirers, and staff to use and operate the building correctly to conserve energy and minimise waste.

- Promote a sense of responsibility and understanding for the environment and participation in environmental issues, by raising user, volunteer, and staff awareness, by information provision and open consultation with the local community.
- Seek, where possible, to purchase from local or regional suppliers, to maximise input to the local community and minimise carbon emissions from transport.
- Use Fairtrade / Organic products where locally grown products are not available e.g. Tea, coffee & sugar
- Work to enhance its outside space where feasible to improve biodiversity (e.g. planting trees/ flowers/shrubs to provide pollen/berries/fruit for wildlife, providing bird boxes/hedging for nesting birds, giving a small area over to run wild and log piles for bugs.
- Encourage Hirers to think about the resources they use and avoid single use plastics and food waste.
- Appoint a member of the committee to work alongside SACC to continue to reduce our carbon footprint and monitor the environmental impact of the community building
- Encourage all hall users to consider their own environmental impact and encourage community awareness
- Prepare an annual action plan for any future environmental work and work alongside the Trustees of the charity to implement any suggested actions

4. Progress to date:

- All lights in the hall are now LED/low energy lights
- Solar panels on the roof provide electricity to the hall during daylight hours and funding is being sought for a battery so that the excess energy can be stored and used in the evenings.
- Electricity is supplied from Good Energy and is therefore 100% renewable energy
- All lights in the toilet and storage areas are motion sensitive
- The boiler has been replaced in 2022 to a more efficient model and is suitable for conversion to hydrogen energy in the future
- The heating to the hall is motion sensitive and will therefore turn off automatically when no movement is sensed in the hall
- The roof space has been well insulated (under the guidance of SACC) and we have now insulated the skellings to the main hall to reduce our heat loss
- Curtains to the main door act as draught excluders in the winter as do the blinds and curtains to the main windows.
- All toilets are low-flush toilets with minimal water consumption.
- All paper products should be made from recycled materials. Washing up liquid & other cleaning materials should be environmentally friendly wherever possible.
- Bins are clearly labelled to avoid waste being disposed of inappropriately including food and garden waste.
- Fairtrade tea and coffee are served at as many events as possible
- All food waste is disposed of using the food caddy and garden waste is recycled through the council green bin scheme

- Bird boxes placed on the village hall exterior 2022
- Trees planted in the garden 2022
- Hedging is cut annually at a time to avoid nesting birds

5. Future Plans:

- Increase the number of Solar panels and link the system to a battery for storage of excess energy created during the day, to be used in the evenings.
- The replacement of our small meeting room will incorporate as many environmental features as possible including:
 - Local Suppliers and contractors
 - Air Source Heat pump to provide the heating
 - Double glazed windows & doors. Insulation to all walls and roof.
 - Use of environmental products as much as is possible
 - LED lighting
 - Rainwater harvesting of any rainwater for use in the garden

Date Policy Implemented: 29.11. 2022

Reviewed by: *Helen Schmitt*

Date: 18.10.23