



DOWNDERRY COMMUNITY SHOP LIMITED
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Revision No.	Date	Document Status
0	5 June 2024	2nd Draft
1	11 June 2024	3rd Draft
3	17 June 2024	Issue 1.0

Introduction

At DOWNDERRY Community Shop Limited we attach great importance to minimising our impact on the environment and are committed to sustainability in all our undertakings. Environmental impact will always be a key consideration when we make decisions relating to the operation of the business.

Below, we set out the principles that we will apply to ensure that DOWNDERRY Community Shop is run in an ecologically sustainable and responsible manner. This Sustainability Policy document is supplementary to *Plunkett's Model Rules for a Community Benefit Society*. Those Model Rules govern how we must manage and operate DOWNDERRY Community Shop. Our registration with the Financial Conduct Authority is subject to us applying Plunkett's Model Rules and these have therefore been adopted as our foundation-level Constitution. This policies set out here should be seen as a local extension to those rules.

Our approach may be summarised by the following principles:

1. Eliminate - Avoid producing waste in the first place
2. Reduce - Minimise the amount of waste we produce
3. Re-Use - Use items as many times as is viable
4. Recycle - Recycle as much waste as possible
5. Dispose - Dispose of what's left in a responsible way

Sustainability Principles

1. A designated member of the shop's Management Committee will be responsible for working with the Shop Manager to ensure adherence to the principles set out below.
2. The Shop Manager will be trained in applying the principles of running an environmentally sustainable business and will, in turn, be responsible for training volunteers.
3. Waste will be reduced by keeping our own packaging to an absolute minimum and encouraging our suppliers to do the same.
4. When working with suppliers and partners we will endeavour to ensure they are committed to reducing waste themselves.
5. Wherever possible we will avoid stocking items from manufacturers whose product packaging has been found to have been responsible for significant coastal pollution.
6. We will avoid stocking goods in single-use/non recyclable packaging.
7. Sales of individual size cold drinks will be restricted to those packaged in recyclable aluminium cans or glass bottles.
8. Beach-ware, (buckets, spades, inflatable toys & aids etc.) will not be stocked by the shop.
9. We will not knowingly send waste materials to landfill.
10. Waste materials, including cardboard, glass, paper and plastics will be responsibly recycled. Organic waste will be sent for composting, biomass digesting etc.

11. Where appropriate, we will consider donating 'out of date' and surplus foodstuffs to local charities and other good causes.
12. Customers will be encouraged to use their own carrier bags. The shop will not provide plastic bags to its customers.
13. Efforts will be made to stock Fair Trade items (chocolate, coffee, tea, sugar, wine etc.) wherever possible.
14. Fruit and vegetables that are sold will be unpackaged, local and seasonal wherever possible.
15. Phosphate-free cleaning materials will be sold in the shop and will also be used in the cleaning of the shop itself.
16. Refillable dispensers for the sale of loose products such as, rice, pulses, cereals etc. will be introduced. Customers will be encouraged to bring their own bags or other containers when purchasing these items.
17. Printing of hard-copy leaflets, posters etc. will to be kept to a minimum and the use of digital communications will be maximised.
18. Energy efficient lighting, refrigeration and other electrical equipment will be used throughout the shop and will, at end-of-life, be disposed of responsibly.
19. Minimising cost and environmental impact will be a key consideration in our selection of utility suppliers and in our use of energy. Effective insulation will be used to minimise energy waste and, as and when funds allow, we will consider the installation of PV solar panels, storage batteries and/or air source heating to the property.
20. Shop collections and deliveries will be coordinated and, where possible, combined to optimise travel costs and reduce impact on the environment.
21. We will employ a 'dashboard' to measure, report and publicly advertise our performance against agreed sustainability objectives. These objectives will be reviewed and, whenever necessary, updated..

These principles will be reviewed regularly and inevitably evolve over time. Consequently this document will be subject to version control to reflect changes.