



## Environmental Policy

At Dean's Garden Centre we are conscious of our responsibilities for sustainability and to protect our environment, and as a business we are constantly implementing best-practice guidelines to promote recycling, energy efficiency and reduce wastage where possible. We also try to raise awareness among our employees, customers, and suppliers.

### Recycling and Waste Management

We recycle our glass, metal, wood, paper, cardboard, plastic, and green waste where possible.

We re-use cardboard boxes for our customers to use to carry their plants, thus reducing the need for plastic bags, but should a customer request a bag we offer bio-degradable ones. We also encourage our employees to reduce paper wastage, by ensuring they do not print off unnecessary documents, and we endeavour to reduce paper-based correspondence to our customers and suppliers by using electronic processes where applicable.

We recycle all the oil that we cook with from our coffee shop kitchens, and we also give away our used coffee grounds to customers for use in their gardens.

We also try and "upcycle" pots, containers, trays, pallets, and other items that we find useful, to try and minimise wastage, by using them in our shop floor displays.

We have a recycling facility within our Garden Centres for customers and staff to recycle their used batteries and we also have recycling facilities in the car-park at our York Garden Centre, for the recycling of household plastics, tins, glass, paper/cardboard and used clothing.

### Waste Electrical or Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Legislation

Under the WEEE legislation, any old electrical items must not be disposed of with general household waste but should be taken to your local authority recycling centre. All new electrical products now carry a symbol of a crossed-out wheelie bin to promote this.

We, like many other UK retailers, have joined the Distributor Takeback Scheme (DTS), which means we pay a fee to help fund and support our local authority in providing local recycling facilities for electrical equipment.

### Energy Efficiency

The Bothy Coffee Shop at our York Garden Centre is heated by "Air Source Heating," which generates considerably less CO2 than conventional heating systems.

Many of our lights are LED and/or have auto switch motion sensors/timers.

### Local Sourcing

To try and reduce our carbon footprint and to also promote British business, where possible we try and source stock from local, UK based suppliers. Most of the food we prepare and sell in our Coffee Shops is purchased from local suppliers.

The bricks used in the Bothy Coffee Shop development at York came from the Handmade Brick Company at Alne, near Easingwold.

Our outdoor plants are mainly purchased through UK based suppliers and growers. This reduces our carbon footprint and promotes support of British businesses.

## **Plant Benefits**

There are many benefits to growing trees and plants such as making your garden more inviting, attracts wildlife, provides a natural solution to improving air quality and reducing carbon dioxide, helps towards a healthy lifestyle and wellbeing and can reduce stress levels. Help the environment by planting more plants and trees in your garden.

Vegetable plants and fruit trees/bushes are also sold, growing your own can be satisfying, provide health benefits as well as reducing your carbon footprint.

## **Wildlife/Nature**

At our Garden Centres, we have numerous hedges and trees growing, many of which are native species, providing habitats for birds, mammals, and insects. Wild areas also provide habitats for these as well as allowing wild flowers to flourish, with several relatively rare species occurring. We also have ponds and bird nesting boxes, as well as actively feeding the birds.

Bird food, feeders, tables, nest boxes, hedgehog houses and insect houses are available to purchase, along with other wildlife habitat shelters.

## **Rainwater Policy**

We collect rainwater which can then be used in our plant areas to water our stock, thus reducing the effects on the environment.

## **Peat Policy**

We are aware of the environmental responsibility of reducing the usage of peat and we endeavour to provide our customers with a choice of quality, growing mediums that are fit for various gardening purposes and provide trialled and tested peat free alternatives.

## **FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)**

The FSC is a non-government, non-profit organisation that are dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's forests. Products which use wood and paper from FSC forests hold the 'tick tree' logo, which means when you purchase one of these products you can be assured that it is made or contains wood from FSC certified forests.

Much of our wooden garden furniture is FSC approved and bears the FSC logo.

## **Raising Awareness**

Dean's Garden Centre always tries to raise awareness of environment and climate change issues to our staff, customers, and suppliers. We stock several "green" products such as solar-powered garden lighting, water butts, compost bins, peat-free composts, organic and natural plant feeds, and fertilisers, to name but a few.

## **Summary**

Dean's Garden Centre has been in business for over 55 years and our ethics, role in the community and our responsibilities towards the environment have remained and continue to expand and include the following values:

- To remain conscientious about the environment
- Continue to help with the development and support of the local community
- Be honest, ethical and a fair employer
- Where possible to trade locally, thus helping other British businesses to prosper