

# **The Lost Gardens of Heligan**

## **Environmental Policy**

**2018**

As the UK's most romantic garden and Europe's largest restoration project our natural environment is hugely important to us at The Lost Gardens of Heligan. We take our responsibility to care for it very seriously. As guardians of the estate and its gardens we will continue working to protect the long term future of the land, and the people who work upon it to sustain and enhance the environment as a whole. We invite and encourage all of our visitors and staff to join us on our sustainability journey.

### **Environmental Promises**

- **We will continue to improve our environmental performance by setting realistic objectives and promises and we will review our progress regularly to ensure that we deliver these promises.**
- **We commit to comply with UK environmental legislation, regulations and any other legal requirements.**
- **We will actively prevent the generation of pollution from our own activities so that we limit any impact on our surrounding neighbours and the environment.**
- **We will carefully manage our energy and water usage, thereby reducing our consumption, annual costs and minimising any emissions to the atmosphere.**
- **Our team of Green Champions will continue to engage our staff and visitors to work with us to achieve our objectives and environmental projects.**

### **Energy Use**

Heligan Gardens aims to monitor our energy consumption as part of our sustainability plan. Our actions in this area will include:

- Replacing all existing light bulbs with LED bulbs (there are necessary exemptions)
- Installing motion sensors in high use areas
- Investing in equipment with 'A' grade efficiency rating as and when possible
- Installing secondary glazing where possible
- Insulating buildings where practical and by using the most environmental materials available to us
- Regularly monitoring energy consumption through weekly meter readings

### **Water**

Heligan Gardens aims to monitor our water consumption through adopting water efficiency measures across the site. This will include actions such as:

- Harvesting rain water for reuse by installing and maintaining water butts in strategic areas
- Utilising our on-site bore hole to provide water for use by the gardeners and in time to provide water for our toilets and washing facilities
- Installing aerator taps and low flush toilets where possible

## **Pollution**

Heligan Gardens aims to minimise its contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. To achieve this aim, our actions will include:

- Keeping travel on and off site to a minimum through the careful planning and organising of journeys. Where possible we will get resources delivered to us and will purchase items as locally as possible. If it is necessary to travel offsite our staff will communicate with other departments in order to combine requirements to minimise journeys
- Actively pursuing the possibilities of installing electric car charging facilities for our staff and our visitors. We are also committed to replacing our company vehicles with electric alternatives as and when they need replacing.
- We will continue to promote green travel options by offering a discounted entrance price for visitors who arrive by public transport, bicycle or on foot
- We will continue to promote and encourage the cycle to work scheme for our staff

## **Waste Management**

Heligan Gardens will follow the '5 R's to sustainability – (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle) principles to tackle our levels of waste disposal and the associated environmental impacts. Actions in this area will include:

- Composting all of our garden, estate and food waste onsite to produce our own supply of compost to be used in the gardens
- Installation of recycling stations for customer use in high use areas that make it simple for our visitors to segregate their waste and recyclables.
- Repurposing estate timber by using it for charcoal making, furniture production and fuel for our log burners. Any excess wood will be offered to staff as an alternative fuel for use at home
- All of our departments will recycle the packaging that comes onto site where possible and we will reuse as many materials as we can
- We will continue to collect bulk items of waste which we re-distribute to local organisations for reuse or recycling
- We will actively work to reduce our usage of single use items such as coffee cups and plastic bottles within our catering department. Our cooking oil is also collected for recycling offsite
- Our office adopt an responsible use of paper and printing by emailing where possible and by printing double sided and reusing scrap paper for note taking

## **Community and Culture**

Heligan Gardens is well rooted in the local area and its communities both through the extensive history of the Heligan House and estate and also through our more recent activities as a visitor attraction. We will maintain these links by:

- Continuing to foster and strengthen our links with local organisations, community groups and charities through targeted events, support and provision of materials
- We will connect and communicate with our members through regular newsletters and events to enhance their sense of involvement in our journey
- Our events programme will continue to inspire and provide outdoor experiences for all ages with a particular focus on the natural environment.

## **Wildlife and Land management**

Heligan Gardens works hard to conserve and protect our natural habitats for wildlife species through the management of our hide and natural spaces. We use age old land management techniques that favour low impact processes as opposed to mechanised options. We will continue to look after these areas by:

- Managing and developing our wildlife hide with an aim to encourage more and varied species to inhabit our site
- We will maintain our created environments such as the bee hives and insect hotel.
- Our methods of land management will remain as low impact as possible whilst including sensitive use of our animals and heritage building's.