

# GEOMÔN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

### Introduction

GeoMôn recognises the importance of promoting, protecting and enhancing the environment as an essential prerequisite, together with social and economic measure, of engaging in and bringing about sustainable development.

To this end GeoMôn is committed in all its activities to ensuring that it acts to **increase, conserve or promote awareness of:**

- Bio-diversity
- Natural resources
- The philosophy and ethics of reduce, reuse and recycle
- The environment and sustainable development
- The aesthetic qualities of the environment both natural and built

GeoMôn regards action to conserve or create a sustainable environment as an essential component of community development activity. Individuals and communities cannot exercise full and meaningful control over their own lives if they do not also have a measure of responsibility and the capacity to influence their own environment. GeoMôn is committed to making its own work an example of best practice for other groups in the area. In its work with other community organisations and voluntary groups it will encourage them to take the broadest possible view of their objectives and activities and to develop integrated policies and strategies which take the social, economic and environmental context of their work into consideration.

**Responsibilities:** This commitment affects everyone who works with GeoMôn including committee members, staff and volunteers.

GeoMôn will be responsible for implementing this policy

### Specific working practices and commitments

#### Purchases and supply

- Whenever possible purchases will be from locally manufactured or available products and services



- Ensure that all purchases of paper are of those that contain a significant proportion of re-cycled material (we will aim for 100%) preferably from post-consumer waste
- All paper purchased will be of the lowest grade compatible with the intended use
- GeoMôn will not purchase tropical hardwood from unsustainable sources and will instead seek to use locally (Wales) sourced hardwood or that from other sustainable temperate sources
- All cleaning products purchased by GeoMôn will be as environmentally friendly as possible. Preference will be given to pump action (re-usable) aerosols and non-spray products (e.g. furniture wax) will be used
- No use will be made of peat or peat-based products

### Natural Environment

- Where appropriate GeoMôn will ensure that ecological surveys are undertaken, and the results incorporated into the planning and development of a project
- GeoMôn will make maximum use of native trees and shrub species in its practical projects
- COSHH regulations and Countryside Council for Wales recommendations for the use of herbicides and other chemicals will be upheld
- GeoMôn will consider becoming a member of an appropriate local, specialist organisation working to conserve and enhance the local environment

### Transport

- GeoMôn will encourage the use of bicycles for short trips and public transport for longer journeys
- Work towards reducing fuel consumption by vehicle sharing, combining journeys, good planning and regular maintenance of vehicles
- GeoMôn does not currently own vehicles, but will ensure that future purchases take environmental performance into account

### Recycling

GeoMôn will adopt a basic strategy of **reduce, reuse and re-cycle**

- The partnership will set up systems and operations to ensure that as much of its waste as possible is recycled and recognise that sorting of its waste is a critical factor in achieving this

### Energy

**GeoMôn will seek to minimise power consumption by**



- Ensuring the correct installation and operation of all electrical and fuel consuming devices
- All new electric items to be purchased based on their energy efficiency where possible
- Lighting and other equipment to be switched off when not in use
- Consideration will be given to purchasing all electricity under a 'green generation' option
- When considering the renovation of a property or a new build GeoMôn will ensure that the equipment and construction specifications ensure low energy consumption

### Relationships with others

- GeoMôn will not undertake to work for any group, client or organisation if there is reason to believe that they are pursuing or likely to pursue activities that will cause unnecessary and avoidable damage to the environment and where the Partnership is unlikely to be able to exert a positive influence on the situation
- The officers shall be entitled to withdraw GeoMôn from any organisation which cannot be persuaded to refrain from activities which cause unnecessary or avoidable environmental damage, if there are no legal or contractual implications in doing so. If there would be legal or contractual implications in withdrawing from a project on these grounds, the officers will immediately inform GeoMôn who will decide what action to take in the best interests of the environmental policy and of its reputation.
- **Contracts with others:** Any individual or organisation contracted to work for GeoMôn will be expected to comply with policy

### Monitoring

GeoMôn will monitor the application of this policy on an annual basis to ensure that its practices comply with the regulations of the Policy. The officers will report on any major issues arising in relation to the policy in their regular reports to the committee.

In due course GeoMôn will consider setting specific targets by which performance against this policy can be more closely monitored and evaluated

### Promotion

All committee members, staff and volunteers will receive a copy of this policy and will be made aware of its content and requirement through induction



*M Wood*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Managing Director GeoMôn

\_\_\_\_\_ Committee Member GeoMôn

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019