



## **Environmental Policy Statement – Issue 2.00**

The *Council of Management* (CoM) of the **Guildford Model Engineering Society** recognises that, as a tenant of a site at Stoke Park Guildford, it has a responsibility to manage and develop this site with due regard to environmental issues alongside its responsibility to the public and the environment when carrying out its activities of model engineering both on and off this site.

The Committee has approved a set of policies for a number of environmental subjects which are set out below. These policies will be reviewed from time to time to ensure they remain consistent with current legislation and directives for environmental matters.

### **Power consumption**

The CoM will at all times seek to minimise power consumed wherever practical by:

- Keeping lighting to minimum use and turning off lights in areas where not required consistent with safety and security
- Using PIR controlled lighting in certain outside positions to illuminate areas only when needed
- Replacing lighting when required with low energy lamps
- Heating premises using control thermostats to keep temperatures to an agreed level that does not exceed 21°C and timers to prevent heating premises when not occupied but consistent with frost protection
- Using powered equipment efficiently
- Considering a project to provide solar energy both to the Society and the National Grid using the south facing roof of the Engine/Carriage Shed at a time when funding for such a project is available

### **Water consumption**

Fresh water is a necessary requirement for operating steam locomotives and an adequate supply is piped and stored around the site for this purpose.

The CoM will seek to minimise water consumption by:

- Allowing mains water to the site only through a manually controlled valve which is turned off at all times except when required to prevent accidental leakage through frost, faults, damage etc.
- Collecting rainwater from the clubhouse and other buildings roofs on the site for use in steam locomotives and the watering of plants
- Providing a well and reservoir of water at a low point on the site that can be used when mains and rain water are in short supply, especially during droughts
- Minimal watering of plants consistent with maintaining them in a healthy condition
- Mulching where possible
- Watering plants later in the day (preferably evening) to reduce surface evaporation
- Use of non-automatic flushes in the urinals

### **Carbon emissions**

The only processes carried out on the site that may warrant attention for carbon emissions are:

- Burning of coal in miniature steam locomotives
- Construction, repair and maintenance of miniature locomotives
- Mowing of grass

The CoM consider that the level of activity is small and falls under the minimum rule of carbon emissions regulation and therefore requires no specific measures to reduce carbon emissions.

### **Disposal of harmful substances**

As a core activity of the Society is the construction and repair of miniature steam locomotives and the like, small quantities of harmful substances may be used such as oils, acids and solvents. The use of such harmful substances is occasional and as such the volumes are very small, far below the 500kg per twelve month period that requires registration.

The CoM is aware of the risks associated with using these substances and will allow use only in the hands of an experienced person, thereby minimising risk. Storage is through the use of correct containers at appropriate temperatures and is monitored by the Risk Assessment of the Society's Safety regime.

Disposal of lead-acid batteries, used oil, acids, solvents, pesticides and fluorescent light bulbs is through the local authority's waste disposal facilities in the appropriate manner. If not to be stored for future use, disposal is soon after use and not left as a potential hazard.

### **Recycling**

Very little activity at the site generates waste material of any kind. During specific weekends of the year the public is allowed access and when this occurs the CoM have waste disposal procedures that bag and dispose of the waste through official channels.

This waste is general and does not normally involve food waste, so separation of waste for recycling is not necessary.

At all other times the CoM arrange for members to regularly dispose of general waste through council authorised waste disposal sites using the recycling facilities provided. Small amounts of scrap metal can be accumulated and this will be disposed of using these facilities.

### **Vermin control**

As with any site that is not occupied twenty four hours a day vermin can be a permanent resident, especially in the banking of a miniature railway. The CoM will make reasonable efforts to control and remove vermin in a manner consistent with current legislation by the following means:

- *Prevention*
  - Removal of all foodstuffs, rubbish and debris close to buildings
  - Keeping refuse sealed in rodent-proof containers
  - Regularly inspect buildings to prevent rodents entering
- *Use of pesticides*
  - Using first generation rodenticides only
  - Using bait for no longer than 35 days in any treatment
  - Removing all bait after use
  - Searching regularly for rodent bodies around the site during treatment and up to seven days from the end of treatment
  - Disposing of any rodent bodies in the correct manner

## **Trees, hedges and shrubbery**

The site currently has a stock of native trees some of which predate the Society's occupation of the site by many years, whilst others have been planted by the Society to enhance the appearance of the site. All boundary hedging is natural and has been present since occupation of the site some fifty years ago.

The CoM will continue to manage tree and shrub planting consistent with the core purpose of running a miniature railway. In particular, the CoM specifies:

- 1) Use of native trees and shrubs to encourage wild life
- 2) Designated areas around the site where grass is allowed to grow long to encourage wild life, particularly under trees
- 3) The creation of wildflower areas which are managed to encourage butterflies and insects
- 4) Use of native hedges such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Field Maple, Field rose, Elder or Guelder-rose when planting new or replanting existing hedgerows
- 5) Mulch where possible

## **Wild life**

With many trees and bushes, a variety of wild life is resident. The Society will encourage the use of the site as a habitat for wild life and will undertake to:

- 1) Remove any hazard that could endanger wild life
- 2) Minimise any disturbance to wild life when operating miniature trains and giving access to the public on public open days
- 3) Site nesting boxes around the site to encourage use of site by birds of a variety of species
- 4) Site any bird feeding tables carefully and of a type to avoid seed spillage that will encourage vermin
- 5) Develop an insect 'hotel'

## **Transport**

The core activity of the Society involves carriage of heavy machinery and personal transport is therefore essential to meet this need. As the Society does not own any vehicles there is no need for a transport environmental policy.

However, the Society does encourage its members to minimise the use of personal transport by:

- 1) Car sharing where possible to and from the Society's site and other popular venues
- 2) When a number of members visit an exhibition or similar event to use a coach rather than individual personal transport

## **Cleaning premises**

The CoM will encourage the use of cleaning products that are kinder to the environment by breaking down easily, thereby reducing pollution.

Approved by the Council of Management: 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Any questions arising from this statement should be addressed to the Chairman, Guildford Model Engineering Society, Stoke Park, London Road, Guildford Surrey GU1 1TU