



# Environmental Policy

TR/HS/1.10      Approved 27/03/2021

The Talyllyn Railway steams through the beautiful Fathew Valley in Southern Snowdonia. Working with the natural environment is important for our visitor enjoyment and safeguarding our future. As such we are committed to continually improving our environmental performance while running and maintaining the railway. In addition to complying with relevant environmental legislation, we are committed to effectively managing our impact on the environment in the following ways:

## **Resources and waste management**

- Minimising the resources we use and, where possible, using recycled materials. Many of our sleepers and rails have had a previous life elsewhere.
- Using our best endeavours when possible and practical to seek supplies from the closest suitable source to reduce our carbon footprint, from coal for our heritage steam engines to the products we sell in our shop, and subject to considerations such as cost/availability etc.
- Recycling all waste whenever possible and practicable, including scrap metal from our workshops and packaging materials from our cafes. We have changed all our food packaging to Vegware and have recycling bins at our main stations. We are reducing single-use plastic in our catering operations. Sleepers will be sold on for further use if suitable.
- Investigating the best way to offset our carbon emissions and understanding our role in the global climate emergency.
- Managing discharges from locomotives as far as practicable.

## **Water**

- Minimising water use by using composting toilets at Dolgoch station and low flush systems elsewhere.
- Taking water for our engines in part from local springs up the valley, without treatment or transport.
- Managing our operations to prevent pollution to drainage and the numerous watercourses crossing the railway.

## **Electricity**

- Minimising our electricity demands; our main station has solar panels to contribute to supplying our energy more renewably.
- Consider investing in further solar panels in future projects which give this opportunity.
- Installing Electric Vehicle charging points at our main stations to allow our staff, volunteers and visitors to travel with a lower environmental impact.

## **Biodiversity**

- Reducing our impact on the local environment; the presumption is that trees on our land will normally be retained and will only be removed where they are diseased, pose a risk to safety, for amenity reasons and for normal ground maintenance purposes. We are looking into the best ways to plant more trees in the local area to offset those we have to remove.
- Sensitively managing vegetation for safe operation in compliance with relevant legislation, avoiding the bird nesting season. We are regenerating our boundary hedges through regular laying and are looking to plant further native hedgerows.

## **Communication**

- Exploring how we can best educate our staff, volunteers and visitors on the importance of environmental performance.
- Engaging regularly with our local community and neighbours to understand how we can support them as a local service and employer, along with minimising our impacts in operational activities.

**This policy is available on our website and upon request. It will be reviewed on a regular basis, with performance discussed and measured by our board.**

**END**