

May Blossom Farm CIC

Alternative Provision

Registered Office: 30 Bath Street, Rugby, Warwickshire

Phone: 07870 853725

Email: info@mayblossomfarm.co.uk

Website: <http://www.mayblossomfarm.co.uk>



Environmental Sustainability Policy

Approved by:	Gill Press
Last reviewed on:	21/10/2025
Next review due by:	31/09/2026
Head of Alternative Provision	Gill Press
Deputy Head of Alternative Provision	Hannah Priest
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Gill Press
Deputy DSL (DDSL)	Hannah Priest
Designated Safeguarding Trustee	Russell Breyer

This policy was ratified in October 2025 and will be reviewed in September 2026

Policy statement

May Blossom Farm CIC (MBF CIC) is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment through sustainable practices in all aspects of our operations. As a farm-based educational setting, we recognise our responsibility to care for the land and to act as role models for our learners, staff, volunteers and visitors.

We aim to reduce our environmental impact, conserve resources and operate in a way that supports the wellbeing of people, animals and the natural environment.

Our environmental management approach reflects the same principles of proportionality, prevention and continuous improvement that underpin our health and safety arrangements.

We are working towards alignment with ISO 14001 Environmental Management System standards and will continue to strengthen our systems and practices accordingly.

Purpose

This policy sets out MBF CIC's commitment to:

- Protect and conserve the environment.
- Source materials from sustainable, ethical and Fair Trade suppliers.
- Minimise waste through reduction, reuse and recycling.
- Reduce consumption and packaging through careful purchasing.
- Select equipment and materials that are energy efficient and environmentally responsible.
- Operate efficient procurement, sales and payment systems with minimal paper use and increased digital transactions.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All MBF CIC premises and off-site activities.
- All staff (paid and volunteer), learners, trustees, contractors and visitors.
- All operational, procurement, administrative and educational activities.

Principles

Environmental protection

MBF CIC will manage its operations to prevent pollution, protect biodiversity and minimise negative impacts on the environment. Activities that may affect the environment will be risk-assessed and managed in line with recognised standards and good practice.

Sustainable purchasing

We will purchase materials, goods and services from sustainable sources wherever practicable, giving preference to:

- Local suppliers and Fair Trade products.
- Items made from recycled or renewable materials.
- Suppliers who can demonstrate environmentally responsible practices.

Waste reduction, reuse and recycling

MBF CIC will develop and maintain a policy of waste reduction, reuse and recycling based on the following hierarchy:

- Reduce: Avoid unnecessary purchases and excess packaging.
- Reuse: Repair, repurpose and share items before disposal.
- Recycle: Segregate recyclable materials and use licensed waste carriers.

Efficient resource use

We will minimise energy, water and material use by:

- Purchasing energy-efficient appliances and equipment.
- Encouraging staff and learners to conserve resources.
- Maintaining equipment to ensure optimal efficiency.

Reduced paper and packaging

Administrative, procurement and communication systems will favour electronic processes, including:

- Digital invoices, statements and payments.
- Online record keeping and communication.
- Reduction of printed materials unless required by law or accessibility needs.

Procurement and Fair Trade

All purchasing decisions will consider environmental and social impact. MBF CIC supports Fair Trade principles and will seek to use Fair Trade products wherever possible.

Continuous improvement and ISO 14001 alignment

We will monitor our environmental performance and continuously improve our practices, working towards compliance with ISO 14001 standards.

Roles and responsibilities

Board of Directors

- Approve and keep under review this Environmental Sustainability Policy.
- Ensure adequate resources are allocated to support environmental goals.
- Receive and review environmental performance reports and updates.

Head of Alternative Provision (Head)

- Overall responsibility for implementing this policy and ensuring compliance.
- Promote sustainability in all operational and educational areas.
- Ensure staff and volunteers are informed, trained and engaged.

Site/Operations Manager

- Day-to-day responsibility for environmental management, waste, energy and procurement.
- Maintain records of recycling, waste disposal, energy use and sustainable purchasing.
- Liaise with suppliers and contractors to ensure environmentally responsible practices.

Staff and Volunteers

- Follow environmental procedures and good practice.
- Report environmental concerns or opportunities for improvement.
- Promote sustainability principles to learners and visitors.

Learners, Visitors and Contractors

- Respect the environment and follow site rules on recycling, waste and resource use.
- Contractors must demonstrate environmentally responsible methods of work.

Monitoring, audit and review

The Leadership Team will monitor environmental performance through periodic reviews of:

- Waste and recycling data.
- Energy and resource use.
- Procurement and paper use.
- Staff and learner engagement in sustainability activities.

Findings will be reported to the Board of Directors annually. Lessons learned and opportunities for improvement will inform updates to this policy and related procedures.

This policy will be reviewed at least annually, or sooner following significant changes to operations, legislation or environmental risk.

Related policies and documents

This policy should be read together with:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Visitor Protocols
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Publication and availability

This policy is published on the MBF CIC website, available in hard copy and alternative formats on request, and is provided to staff, volunteers, trustees, contractors and referring schools as part of induction and ongoing communications.