

Ullswater Steamers Sustainable Procurement in Action

Organisational Profile:

Ullswater 'Steamers' is an award winning environmentally accredited Lake District attraction celebrating over 150 years of operating lake cruises on England's most beautiful lake, Ullswater.

The organisation is committed to reducing its environmental impact and maximising positive sustainability benefits and has an Environmental Policy and Energy Management Plan in place.



Drivers for Sustainable Procurement:

Sustainable Procurement means thinking about what you buy in order to support wider economic, social and environmental objectives. There are a number of purchases that the organisation makes where there is an opportunity to do this to maximise positive benefits.

The organisation recognises that implementing sustainable procurement will help it to reduce its direct and indirect carbon footprint, reduce waste, benefit biodiversity and help to support the local economy.

Activities to embed Sustainable Procurement:

- Ullswater Steamers are a member of the Buy Recycled Code and look to buy products that contain recycled content where possible. All paper bought is either 100% recycled content or from sustainably managed forests such as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper
- All inks used for printing are vegetable oil based and the printing press is 100% alcohol free so there are no harmful chemicals released
- The organisation sources locally produced goods and fair-trade products wherever possible
- The organisation avoids buying cleaning products which contain environmentally damaging chemicals
- Energy efficiency performance is considered when purchasing equipment such as lighting and computers

- The organisation aims to reuse furniture where possible and when buying new furniture to use materials from sustainable sources
- When purchasing new vehicles, environmental considerations are taken into account
- Since 1997 Ullswater Steamers have had a visitor donation scheme in place which means that 10p of the price of each Glenridding to Howtown ticket is donated to help maintain the local footpaths. This has raised over £30,000 to date
- Ullswater Steamers engages with its suppliers on sustainability as it recognises the role they have in helping to maximise positive benefits

The Benefits:

By demonstrating the organisations commitment to Sustainable Procurement Ullswater Steamers are leading by example:

Reducing Carbon

- Helping to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint through using products with recycled content which are less energy intensive than virgin resources and using more energy efficient products
- Buying locally and asking suppliers to consolidate and reduce the number of deliveries is helping to reduce the amount of vehicle and associated carbon miles of products

Reducing Waste

- Using products with recycled content means that less waste is being sent to landfill

Reducing any negative impacts on biodiversity

- The organisation is reducing its impact on biodiversity through using paper that is recycled and/or FSC certified, using printing which is 100% alcohol free with vegetable oil based inks and using cleaning products which do not contain environmentally damaging chemicals

Supporting the local economy

- Ullswater Steamers aim to source products which have been locally produced wherever possible

Further Information:

- The Buy Recycled Code www.envirolinknw.co.uk/buyrecycled/
- Green Tourism Business Scheme www.green-business.co.uk
- Nurture Lakeland www.nurturelakeland.org
- Cumbria Business Environment Network www.cumbriaben.com