



PONY PARTNERSHIPS



Environmental Policy

Name of Organisation: Pony Partnerships CIC

Venue/Address: All venues

Date of Last Review: 1st September 2025

Date of Next Review: 31st August 2026

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1. Policy Statement

Pony Partnerships CIC is committed to minimising its environmental impact, protecting biodiversity, and promoting sustainable practices across all its operations. We recognise our responsibility to future generations and commit to continuous improvement in environmental performance in line with:

- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended 2019 net zero target)
- Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- The Clean Air Strategy (DEFRA, 2019)
- Local authority environmental and planning requirements.

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, clients, and visitors.

2. Objectives

We will:

- Minimise the consumption of energy, water, and natural resources.
- Prevent pollution and manage waste responsibly.
- Promote sustainable land management, including animal care and habitat protection.
- Support education and awareness of environmental responsibility among staff, clients, and the community.
- Regularly review and update practices to reflect new legislation and best practice.

3. Energy & Resource Goals

Goal 1: Reduce Energy and Water Consumption

- Use renewable and sustainable energy sources wherever possible.
- Insulate buildings to reduce energy loss and improve efficiency.
- Minimise water use, including through the composting toilet system.
- Switch off lights, equipment, and heating when not in use.

Goal 2: Waste Reduction and Circular Practices

- Follow the waste hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, dispose.
- Recycle paper, plastics, glass, and metals across all sites.
- Compost organic waste where feasible. Ensure all hazardous waste (e.g., veterinary products, chemicals) is stored, used, and disposed of safely in line with COSHH Regulations 2002.

Goal 3: Sustainable Land and Animal Management

- Practise sustainable farming and equine care methods.
- Minimise the use of glyphosate and seek alternative methods of weed control.
- Manage parasites responsibly to avoid wormer resistance.
- Protect local wildlife and natural habitats on and around our sites.

Goal 4: Transport and Carbon Footprint

- Encourage car sharing, cycling, walking, and public transport where possible.
- Reduce non-essential travel and make use of remote meetings.
- Consider electric or low-emission vehicles for organisational use when feasible.

4. Roles & Responsibilities

- **Board of Directors:** Responsible for overall policy approval, review, and ensuring resources are available for implementation.
- **Manager (Clinical Lead):** Responsible for monitoring compliance, reporting progress, and identifying improvements.
- **Staff and Volunteers:** Expected to follow environmental procedures, reduce waste, and promote sustainable practices.
- **Clients and Visitors:** Encouraged to engage in environmentally conscious behaviour while on site.

5. Monitoring and Review

- Environmental performance will be reviewed annually, including energy use, waste management, and sustainable farming practices.
- Progress against goals will be reported to the Board of Directors.
- Feedback from staff, volunteers, and clients will be considered in updates.

6. Communication

- This policy will be shared with all staff and volunteers during induction and training.
- A copy will be available on-site and on the organisation's website.
- Updates will be communicated through staff meetings, training, and newsletters.

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Appendix A – Green Action Plan

1. Energy & Water Use

Actions for Staff and Volunteers:

- Switch off lights, heaters, and appliances when not in use.
- Use natural light and ventilation where possible.
- Report dripping taps, leaks, or broken insulation immediately.
- Use kettles, heaters, and washing machines efficiently (only when full / needed).
- Keep doors and windows closed when heating is on.

Monitoring:

- Monthly energy usage recorded from meters.
- Annual review of water consumption.

2. Waste Reduction & Recycling

Actions for Staff and Volunteers:

- Reduce printing and photocopying – use digital records where possible.
- Use recycled paper and refillable stationery.
- Separate waste into:
 - **General waste**
 - **Recycling (paper, cardboard, glass, tins, plastics)**
 - **Composting (food/organic waste)**
- Dispose of hazardous waste (e.g., veterinary medicines, cleaning chemicals) following **COSHH 2002** requirements.
- Reuse containers, equipment, and materials where safe and possible.

Monitoring:

- Quarterly waste audit.
- Annual review of recycling rates.

3. Land & Animal Management

Actions for Staff and Volunteers:

- Use non-chemical methods of weed control where possible (manual removal, mulching).
- Minimise use of glyphosate; record and justify any use.
- Monitor animal health and parasite loads before administering wormers to reduce resistance.
- Manage grazing to avoid overuse and soil erosion.
- Maintain fencing, signage, and pathways for safe access and protection of natural habitats.
- Plant hedgerows or wildflowers to encourage biodiversity where possible.

Monitoring:

- Animal health records updated regularly.
- Annual review of land management plans.

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4. Transport & Carbon Reduction

Actions for Staff and Volunteers:

- Car-share where possible for work-related journeys.
- Use video/phone meetings instead of travel when suitable.
- Encourage walking and cycling for short journeys.
- Keep vehicles well maintained to reduce emissions.
- Consider electric or low-emission vehicles for organisational transport (long-term).

Monitoring:

- Record travel mileage for work journeys.
- Annual review of transport impact.

5. Procurement & Purchasing

Actions for Staff and Volunteers:

- Purchase from local suppliers wherever possible to reduce transport emissions.
- Choose environmentally friendly products (biodegradable cleaning products, recycled paper).
- Avoid single-use plastics – use reusable containers, bottles, and cutlery.
- Consider animal welfare, ethical, and sustainability standards when sourcing feed and equipment.

Monitoring:

- Annual supplier review to assess environmental credentials.
- Record and report sustainable purchases.

6. Education & Awareness

Actions for Staff, Volunteers, and Clients:

- Include environmental awareness in staff induction and training.
- Engage clients in sustainable practices (e.g., recycling, animal care, gardening).
- Share updates and ideas for greener practice at staff meetings.
- Celebrate environmental awareness days (e.g., Earth Day, World Environment Day).

Monitoring:

- Training records maintained in the Single Central Record.
- Annual survey for staff/volunteers on environmental engagement.

7. Review & Reporting

- Green Action Plan progress reviewed **annually** by the Board of Directors.
- Adjustments made based on new legislation, best practice, or feedback.
- Key achievements and goals shared with staff, clients, and stakeholders.

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