



YORKSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY 2007 - 2008

OPENING STATEMENT

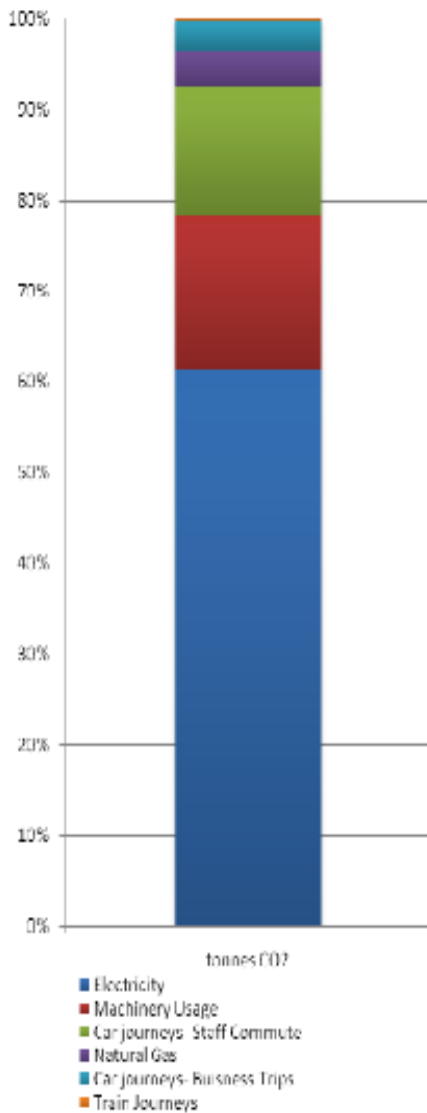
- The Yorkshire Agricultural Society (YAS) plays a significant role in and is committed to advancing, British agricultural and countryside issues. We recognise our operations have an effect on the local, regional and global environment.
- Consequently, YAS is committed to continuous improvements in its environmental performance.
- Environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice will be regarded as setting the minimum standards of environmental performance.
- YAS's Environmental Policy will be made available to the public via the internet.
- We will ensure we understand our carbon footprint and take appropriate action to reduce such impact on the environment.
- YAS is committed to developing a comprehensive recycling plan, both year round and for the Great Yorkshire Show (GYS).

UNDERSTANDING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

YAS has undertaken an examination of our carbon footprint and information below shows the impact the society has on the environment. **Our main target is to become carbon neutral within three years initially through planting of 120 trees annually.**

Yorkshire Agricultural Society

Carbon Emissions from May 2006 to May 2007



The Results of Yorkshire Agricultural Society's Carbon Footprint Assessment

Item / Activity	tonnes CO ₂
Electricity	159.65
Natural Gas	10.90
Car journeys- Staff Commute	36.80
Car journeys- Business Trips	8.51
Machinery Usage	43.80
Train Journeys	0.50
Total	260.15

Table to show fuel consumption at the Great Yorkshire Showground

Type of Machinery	Fuel Type	Units	Amount Used Per Year
White Diesel	Diesel	Litres	1396
Petrol	Petrol	Litres	295
Red Diesel	Diesel	Litres	15000

SPECIFIC POLICIES

Energy Use:

Use of electricity makes up the largest proportion of the YAS's carbon footprint. We intend to cut this figure through good practice or reducing the amount we use and by introducing environmentally sustainable alternative energy sources, such as solar water heating systems. We will also invest in products with improved energy efficiency.



TARGET

To reduce electricity usage by 5% over 2008 and explore sustainable sources.

Future Actions:


- Switch to renewable energy wherever possible. We will look to utilise solar energy and biomass boilers into new builds to reduce consumption of electricity from the national grid.
- Investigate reactive lighting.
- Turn the air-conditioning down / switch off during quiet hours.
- Implement a “turn it off” policy and clearly communicate this to all employees.
- Ensure all employees turn off PCs at night and over weekends. This should include the monitor as well as the PC.
- Ensure all employees switch their computer monitor off when they are away from their desks for significant periods of the day.
- Ensure lights are turned off at night and over the weekends when staff are out of the office.
- Check printers and photocopying machines are turned off during quiet hours.
- Ensure that lights are turned off during quiet hours.
- Switch off lights in meeting rooms when not in use.
- Replace filament style light bulbs with energy saving lights.
- Check water heaters are turned off out of hours and ensure the air-conditioning isn't conflicting with heating.
- Turn down the heating by 1 degree Celsius.
- Ensure the boiler system is regularly maintained (can boost energy efficiency by over 20%).
- Introduce water flow reducers to all water taps to reduce wastage.
- Consider introduction of energy and Water Management Tools so we can determine consumption throughout the day and night.

- To try and incorporate as many sustainable elements as possible into the creation of the new Regional Agricultural Centre.

Responsibility for Products

The YAS recognises that it has a responsibility to source its products, where economically viable, from sustainable and ethical sources. All paper used is from sustainably managed sources. The YAS aims to:

- Source where possible and economically viable, commercial substitutions of products used.
- Source locally where possible. Including increasing the use of local foods through our catering operations. The new Farm shop will help champion this cause to a wider audience.
- Work with suppliers and identify if they:
 - source renewable raw materials.
 - are good employers with responsible Codes of Practice.
 - can offer a growing range of economically viable environmentally sound products.

	<p>TARGET</p> <p>To collate a list of all suppliers and issue an environmental questionnaire to understand their ethics match with our charitable objectives. All suppliers to have completed questionnaire by the end of 2008.</p>
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Future Actions:

- Draw up lists of key products and suppliers.
- Issue an environmental questionnaire to suppliers to determine who meet the required criteria. This shall be audited on an ongoing basis.
- Create a list of environmentally conscious approved suppliers and work with each supplier to fully explore all resources the YAS consumes and explore whether a product substitution programme can replace the resource we consume with a more environmentally sound product.
- Review waste end products to ensure all waste products are recyclable and reduce overall waste volumes through working with suppliers to prompt change.

Recycling

The YAS is committed to recycling and the use of recycled materials; while reducing consumption of materials where possible. This also involves the promotion of recycling and recycled materials in the many events held at the Great Yorkshire Showground.

The YAS aims to minimise waste, especially hazardous waste, and whenever possible recycle materials. We will dispose of all waste through safe and responsible methods. All electrical equipment shall be disposed of according to new WEEE legislation. The YAS currently recycles glass, cardboard and paper and composts all compostable material and food waste which goes to our wormery which has been trialled over the last three months.



TARGET:

To reduce annual waste volumes of 772 tonnes by 15%

To recycle 50% of waste produced from the Great Yorkshire Show and Countryside Live in 2008.

Future Actions:

- Extend the Great Yorkshire Show (GYS) recycling programme further to computer equipment, mobiles phones and potentially exhibition carpet.
- Introduce a larger wormery to capitalise on the food volumes produced by Pavilions of Harrogate (PoH) / Yorkshire Event Centre (YEC) caterers.
- Introduce a Green Waste skip for use at the Facilities Department to extend composting programme.
- Investigate the potential for plastics recycling to be introduced.
- Introduce a recycling programme for all major events and all Great Yorkshire Show waste will be transported to a MRF (materials recycling facility) where it will be sorted for recycling to improve the volumes we are able to recycle from these events.
- Champion best practice through 6 monthly departmental audits.

Training Personnel and Employee Awareness

The education and training of employees in environmental issues and the environmental effects of their activities, is of the utmost importance for success. Environmental issues shall be included in training programmes and the YAS shall encourage all employees to implement sound environmental practice.

The YAS has recently set up a 'Green Team' Action group with the primary purpose of discussing current environmental issues, possible future actions and most importantly progress against our annual targets. Representatives from across the organisation attend these meetings, and these employees are responsible for canvassing the views or concerns of their teams and championing best practice within their department. Employees shall be made aware of environmental issues within the Company via the following media:

- Posters
- Newsletters
- 'Top Tips' posted on the intranet
- Noticeboards
- Meetings / Team Briefings

In all of the above methods of disseminating information, YAS shall limit the amount of resources used and will issue as much as possible in an electronic format.

We will continue to consult with employees and consider all suggestions so we can continue to develop our policies further. Where employees have no regular intranet access, information will be supplied via hard-copy on noticeboards.

Transport

A considerable proportion of the YAS's carbon output is attributable to private transport to and from site by employees. The YAS aims to encourage alternative means of transport (bus, train, bicycle, on foot) and car-sharing schemes.

We recently held our first Car-Free Day on which employees were encouraged to adopt a new environmentally friendly way of getting to work by walking, cycling or via public transport/car sharing, etc. This will become an annual event.

Transportation around site is necessary and we currently store our own petrol and diesel fuels. The YAS will investigate alternative fuels such as biofuel as a long term solution.



TARGET

To ensure we provide support, information and encouragement for employees wishing to travel by alternative means throughout 2008.

Future Actions:

- To buy a number of YAS bicycles to enable staff to move quickly around site without the use of a car.
- To provide additional bicycle racks where necessary to make it easier for all employees wishing to travel by this means.
- To open Yellow / Orange Gate for pedestrian access to encourage employees to walk to work and walk to Sainsbury's for their lunch.
- To continue to work with other bodies to encourage the uptake of local schemes by employees such as car share.
- To attend local environmental groups for businesses to ensure we work with other local organisations to develop our policies yet further.