

**Under Fives Roundabout
Environmental Policy
Policy No: 4.5.**

Last reviewed: November 2009 (first draft)

To be reviewed by: November 2010

Responsible member of staff: Ana Woor

Responsible member of committee: Eileen Hori

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.3. Keeping safe 1.4. Health and well-being	2.2. Parents as partners	3.3. The learning environment 3.4. The wider context	4.4. Areas of Development and Learning

4.5. Environmental Policy

We are aware of concerns over climate change, the use of resources, pollution and wildlife conservation.

Our environmental policy is to:

- minimise the use of non-renewable and environmentally-damaging resources
- maximise recycling
- minimise pollution from transport
- minimise water use
- consider the environmental impact of purchasing decisions
- set environmental targets and goals designed to improve our environmental performance and regularly review progress.
- increase awareness of environmental issues
- ensure staff are made aware of this policy and their responsibilities for environmental issues.

These aims should be met without compromising the education, enjoyment or safety of the pre-school staff and children and should not adversely affect Roundabout's budget.

To achieve these aims:

All staff will be made aware of the policy and be encouraged to contribute to its formulation and implementation

Paper:

- Staff are asked to keep their written documents to one or two sides of A4 wherever possible.
- Staff and Committee are asked to use double-sided photocopying wherever possible.
- Paper bins should be used to recycle all paper.
- Staff and students are asked to ensure that both sides of paper are used before it is recycled. The rooms and the office should contain a scrap paper box.
- Staff and students are asked not to print documents or websites unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Wherever possible, e-mail will be used as the preferred medium of communication between staff/committee and parents/carers.

- Parents will be invited to contribute scrap paper if available from their places of work, particularly coloured paper, large pieces of paper and cardboard. We will use Scrapstore at times.

Cans and bottles:

Rubbish bins will have separate sections for different waste classifications

Green waste

All waste food products from snack time will be composted, along with garden waste and paper towels.

Cardboard, any cooked food waste and bulky garden waste will be placed in the green wheelie bin for collection.

Electricity:

Roundabout will receive electricity from renewable sources if financially viable.

Heating: Heaters should be switched off when not required and air conditioning only used when essential. The ideal temperature of the rooms is approximately 19 degrees. Children and staff should be encouraged to bring layers of clothing in case of colder days when the room takes some time to warm up. As 'free flow' is part of the EYFS, it is essential that the children are able to move inside and outside and between the rooms at will. To prevent heating loss we will:

Use u-shaped door stoppers to keep the external doors ajar but not wide open in cold weather

Consider using 'free-flow' curtains

In extreme weather, close the outer doors but facilitate free-flow between the rooms by making the lobby safe for the children to move through (ie. not use lobby for temporary storage and make the kitchen inaccessible to children without adult assistance).

All computers, screens, printers and photocopiers should be turned off when not in use. Timer switches should be used for items which get 'forgotten' and left on out of hours.

Lights should be turned off whenever they are not being used. Environmentally friendly light-bulbs must be fitted in all sockets where possible.

Battery usage should be avoided, but where necessary rechargeable batteries should be used as a preference. All batteries should be disposed of at a designated battery collection facility, (such as the one at Waitrose) and never with the general waste.

Energy usage will be monitored using an electricity monitor

Water:

Reducing the water-flow on the children's taps should be investigated, for example by adding a flow-reducer or aerater, such as TapMagic if possible.

Children's toilets are Xxlitre flushes, staff toilet has a Xxlitre flush.

The dishwasher should be filled as much as possible before running to avoid having to wash surplus products by hand.

A bowl is available to save water when washing up.

The garden will be watered using water from the water butt when possible. The children will be encouraged to use this water and watering cans.

Water usage will be monitored from the water bill (the water metre is under the path).

Environmental awareness:

Roundabout will sign up to the 10:10 initiative, to reduce carbon emissions by 10% in 2010.

Children will be made aware of where food comes from, by the food grown in the garden (and visits to the chickens at Mayfield).

Roundabout will stock some suitable books with an environmental message.

Craft-activities such as junk-modelling and collage are used to help children realise that waste objects have value.

Natural products will be used in activities, eg. leaves, conkers, seed-growing etc.

Transport:

Parents are encouraged to use sustainable means of transport to bring their children to Roundabout.

Bicycle-parking facilities are available.

We have Cambridge Cycle maps available for all parents/carers/staff showing the various cycle routes.

Purchasing:

When purchasing new stock for Roundabout, considerations should include durability, biodegradability, packaging, distance from source, ethics (eg. fair-trade).

New stock should be bought only as necessary, with an emphasis on longer-lasting, better quality items.

Environmentally-friendly brands of cleaning products should be used, if found to deliver satisfactory results. Larger bottles for refilling those in use will cut down on packaging and should cost less.

Other waste:

Plastic bags will be used for lining bins and scrap paper/cardboard for lining green bins.

Packaging – will use for junk modelling first if appropriate, and then separate out all recyclable components such as cardboard.

Broken equipment should be fixed if reasonable.

Old and surplus but not broken toys and equipment will be sold for funds or offered to parents for free.

Action list as of January 2010:

Actions on Environmental Policy (up-dated March 2010)

- Devise method of labelling bins more clearly (perhaps with pictures?), especially the main one in the kitchen (already has three segments but rubbish still being mixed). Would be good to do this for children AND adults.
- Put up a poster of what goes where (green bin, compost bin, recycling (blue bin, currently boxes), general waste bin (black - though ours is dark blue)
- Buy some more u-shaped door stoppers (5 required) - DONE
- Check utility contracts - Fiona W
- High handle for kitchen door - Eileen (done Jan 10)
- Look into practicality of and cost of time switches
- Check which bulbs are currently used in all our light sockets (Building book in lobby) and if there are any more environmentally friendly options
- Electricity monitor (Jane has done – any results to report?)
- Water - check building book for various information gaps. Investigate whether we can use flow-reducers, etc. on taps and toilets
- 10:10 - short summary required for newsletter/e-news and then sign up? (agreed to sign up, need to do it ...) – Need to sign up

- Books - Jane to check with Sam/Liz what we have and then make a wishlist?
- Purchasing - need to do a cost comparison with current purchases and fair trade/environmentally friendly alternatives (Jane and Fiona W). This will be mainly for kitchen/toddler group resources (coffee, tea, sugar, biscuits - currently economy range at Sainsburys; Fiona had mentioned looking into cash and carry bulk ordering, not sure if they do Fair Trade), paper, and cleaning products (I think currently through Espo)