



# Sheepdrove's Sustainability Policy

Sustainability is at the heart of all Sheepdrove's activities. We believe our mission is to create a nature-rich landscape and the associated public benefit of positively managing our farm and wildlife. This policy details how we will achieve a sustainable business that regenerates the environment, society and the local economy.

At Sheepdrove we are guided by three sustainable principles -

## **Regenerate**

We generate energy, goods and services from our land, and in the process regenerate the environment, society and the economy.

## **Optimise**

We optimise the use of everything from energy to materials, and goods produced onsite. By making best use of everything we recognise and do not dispose of value.

## **Exchange**

We engage our stakeholders; our staff, visitors, tenants and customers, about ways they can reduce their impact and we can improve ours.

## **Environmental Policies**

We aim to have a measurable net positive contribution to climate change and biodiversity by 2035. This will be achieved by minimising all emissions, waste and biodiversity impact to as near zero as possible, and by improving habitats to ensure any climate or biodiversity impacts from direct or indirect activities is exceeded by our regenerative practices.

We recognise our key environmental impact to be in the areas of: energy use, material waste, organic waste, water, other emissions, transport, procurement of good/services, and third party usage of venues and buildings.

We will achieve our ambitions by implementing the following policies:

**Increase onsite generation of renewable energy** To reduce emissions from energy imported, we will continue to increase onsite generation of renewable energy to exceed annual electricity usage.

**Renewable heating to replace hydrocarbon heating** We will continue to replace oil and gas heated buildings with heating system entirely powered by onsite or imported renewable energy, eliminating Scope 1 emissions from buildings.

**Optimise use of energy** We will continue to reduce the amount of energy used on site as much as possible, by installing energy efficiency measures in buildings (e.g. insulation, energy efficient lighting), through behaviour (e.g. adjusting heating, switching off light), and through purchasing decisions (e.g. energy efficient appliances).

**Reduce material waste through reuse and recycling** We will continue to reduce material waste from office and catering equipment, to onsite farm and buildings materials, by sourcing sustainable, second hand or recycled goods, and then at end of life putting materials for reuse or recycling, and if not possible disposing of them sustainably. We will support plastic free usage of our buildings through provision of reusable glasses, cups, plates, cutlery, and water bottles.

**Natural organic waste management practices** We will continue to manage as much organic waste onsite as possible, containing nutrient run-off, and spreading organic material for enhancement of biodiversity and production of crops.

**Onsite circular use of water** We will continue to source water from the local aquifer and will manage waste water from the events venue and other commercial and residential buildings through natural cleaning processes on site.

**Enhance natural water supply** We will continue to farm organically as a registered and certified as an organic farm using no synthetic chemicals or artificial fertiliser and only organic materials to fertilise the land, to ensure water quality in aquifers, rivers and lakes that have run-off from our lands.

**Manage emissions** We will record and register emissions from all possible sources and create an ongoing plan to reduce emissions to covered within this policy.

**Reduce transport emissions** We will continue to reduce transport emissions by replacing vehicles owned by Sheepdrove with electric or low carbon alternatives at end of life, reducing our Scope 1 carbon emissions. We will put in place policies for business transport that encourage use of electric, public or active transport, reducing Scope 2 emissions. For staff commuting onsite we will reduce scope 3 carbon emissions by promoting home working, and incentivising public, active or electric power transport.

**Reduce waste from transport** We will reduce waste associated with vehicles by purchasing long life components, repairing vehicles and by using vehicles only when necessary to ensure their longevity.

**Procure sustainable goods/services** We will identify and partner with more local suppliers who share our eco-friendly ethos and ask a wider range of local suppliers about their event sustainability practices and to sign up to the “Sheepdrove Green Pledge”. We will consider the geographical location and environmental ethos of our suppliers, and will encourage caterers to serve locally produced and ethically sourced food and beverages. We will stipulate that suppliers of goods and services report on their Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions, and provide us, where possible, with emissions associated with their services. We will also stipulate that suppliers have robust environmental policies in place and report on biodiversity impacts where these are significant.

**Third party use of venues and buildings** We will continue to encourage all users of our event venue and tenants of buildings to reduce their environmental impact. This will be through guidance, direct provision of services and through policies that align with our own environmental policy.

**Measure biodiversity** We will continue to regularly monitor the development of habitats across the site and will monitor biodiversity periodically to ensure our regenerative agricultural practices improve biodiversity.

**Measure onsite carbon sequestration** We will measure onsite carbon sequestration and have our carbon credits verified to a high standard, so we may legitimately offset any unavoidable carbon emissions onsite.

**Internal policies** We ask that every member of the Sheepdrove team is fully engaged in operating in ways to actively reduce Sheepdrove’s environmental impact, whether that is through local purchasing or through initiatives to reduce waste.

**Comply with and exceed all relevant environmental regulations and legislation** We will raise and maintain a high level of understanding and participation of environmental best practice and will comply with all relevant environmental regulations and legislation.

**Annual review of delivery of policy** We will measure how we are achieving against our commitment to achieving a net positive contribution to climate change and biodiversity by 2035. To do this we regularly review our carbon, biodiversity and waste impacts, and will look to make a plan to reduce them in line with this target. Where necessary we will update our environmental policy.

## **Social Policies**

We aim to have a net benefit to society through the provision of food, accommodation, events services, access to land, employment, charitable giving and education.

We aim to achieve this ambition through the following policies:

**Create and support creation of high quality, organic goods** We will continue to create and support the creation of the highest quality organic, GMO free goods, to ensure that society benefits from the most nutritious and healthy foods.

**Accommodation to enable people to thrive** We will continue to provide affordable, comfortable, and well maintained residential and commercial accommodation to people who visit and live onsite, so to help create an environment where people can thrive. The experience of living or renting our accommodation will also be used to educate those staying with us to learn about renewable technology and sustainable living.

**Accessible events services that inspire** We provide an affordable net zero, plastic free and zero waste water events venue, located in a nature rich environment, to support the delivery of sustainable events that engage a wide audience who can be inspired to live a sustainable life and engage with nature.

**Public access to a nature-rich landscape** We provide access to our land through public rights of way and permissive paths and through private hire for farm stays. This aims to inspire the public whilst also offering health and wellbeing benefits.

**Fair employment** We provide employment to local staff to which we pay the real living wage.

**Giving back through charitable donations** Through our charitable trust we give back to society by supporting a wide range of social and environmental charities.

**Educate the public about sustainable practices** We will educate the public about climate and nature positive practices through social media, our events and through signage on site of Sheepdrove, and by attending educational events.

## **Economic Policies**

We continue to innovate, invest and upgrade at Sheepdrove and aim to benefit our local community through operations and practices, including hiring local staff and partnering with local businesses.

We aim to achieve this through the following policies:

**Attract visitors** We will attract visitors through the provision of an inspiring and functional event venue and nature accessible landscape, and will support local services by holding and sharing information with visitors.

**Employ local staff** We will employ local staff and encourage them to use local facilities.

**Work with local suppliers** We will work as a preference with local suppliers helping support the local economy.

## **Definitions**

Sustainability is defined as “The quality of not being harmful to the environment or depleting natural resources, and thereby supporting long-term ecological balance.”

Sustainable business is defined as one that is concerned about the social, environmental, and economic impacts associated with its current and future operations, sometimes defined as the three Ps - people, planet and profit. At Sheepdrove we place these three pillars of sustainability at the heart of our business.

## **Values**

The following fundamental values and beliefs underpin our work at Sheepdrove:

Collaboration

Respect

Trust

Integrity

Inclusivity

Empowerment

Our values are at the heart of everything we do.

## **Future Plans**

Establish an “Events and Weddings” Woodland where trees planted annually will offset the carbon emissions generated by events and weddings at Sheepdrove by 2025.

Renovate our farm cottages by introducing renewable energy systems and increased insulation by 2028.

Go completely off grid by 2040. We will investigate battery storage and more wind and solar onsite generation; being off grid is a powerful way to reduce carbon emissions.

Version 1.0 14-11-22