

NORTH DORSET BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
POLICY No. 2
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Introduction

NDBKA is an association of honeybee keepers and others with an interest in beekeeping. In the United Kingdom, the honeybee is *Apis mellifera*. Bees have a significant part to play within the natural environment and are also affected by the impact of others on the environment in which they live and forage for food and water. NDBKA members are therefore interested in, and concerned about, the wider environment. NDBKA will prioritise minimising the environmental impact of its activities wherever possible, and on increasing knowledge about the environmental importance of the honeybee and other pollinators.

Purpose

The principles underlying this environmental policy will ensure NDBKA

- complies with environmental legislation
- minimises the negative impact of its activities on the wider environment
- promotes ways to improve the environment, particularly as it relates to the life of the honeybee
- continuously seeks to improve its environmental credentials through a process of review and change.

Education

NDBKA has education at the heart of its objectives. Environmental risks to the honeybee and their mitigation will feature in courses and other public presentations, including the importance of biodiversity and water in the provision of food for bees and other species.

NDBKA will establish links with neighbouring properties, including farms, seeking to encourage environmental best practice and a mutually beneficial relationship (e.g., advance notice of crop spraying, improved pollination, etc.).

Recycling

NDBKA will recycle, repair and reuse items in the apiary and in its buildings wherever possible. Single-use items will be avoided and, where impossible to avoid, they will be processed in accordance with local authority directives.

Waste materials will be handled responsibly, composting whenever possible.

Water will be harvested from apiary buildings.

Buildings

NDBKA's buildings will be constructed to the highest environmental standards and in accordance with building regulations applicable at the time of construction, ensuring high levels of insulation (to be fit for building purpose).

Energy will be sourced using "green technologies" whenever possible.

Appliances, including lighting, will be of the highest efficiency and lowest power consumption available at the time of purchase.

Time and/or motion operated switches will be employed to reduce energy consumption.

Lighting will be fit for purpose so as to minimise power consumption. Light spillage will be minimised (e.g., by pointing any external lights at the ground).

Suppliers & Partners

Where selection of a supplier or partner is required, the Association will take reasonable steps to ensure those third parties are broadly aligned with NDBKA policy where appropriate.

Policy management & review

Trustees will review the Environmental Policy and the Association's environmental performance annually, making changes as necessary to ensure best practice is observed.

Approved by

North Dorset Beekeepers Association Trustees