

DRYAD'S GREEN POLICY & GUIDELINES

save cash and save the planet

Dryad's policy

Dryad is establishing itself as a sustainable community. It aims to influence the wider community, by being a good example of how communities can work together to create a greener life-style.

Therefore Dryad is establishing a policy of energy efficiency and low-carbon practices. These following guidelines and "common-sense tips" are to help all Dryad members ensure that we achieve our aims.

1.Waste

re-cycling

Dryad provides recycling facilities in our shed for cardboard, tetra packs, plastic and tins. Please help to keep the shed clean and tidy. The Council bring-site caters for glass, paper and aluminium drinks cans at the top of Golf Drive.

composting

The Co-op has provided at least one composter for every household. These are ideal for recycling kitchen and garden waste by turning it into compost. It is important that every composter is made rat-proof, by securing wire mesh underneath them so that it prevents rats from tunneling to get to the food scraps. The composters provided are only suitable for composting food scraps such as vegetable and fruit peelings but NOT cooked food left-overs or meat of any kind. They can compost garden waste such as cuttings, but not persistent weeds with roots. It is important to add some crumpled paper and cardboard (egg-boxes are good), and garden green waste in order to get the right ingredients for a nice compost. It helps to turn the mixture and leave it "to do it's thing" for the process to run it's course. If anyone has any questions about composting, you can find information at www.recyclenow.com/compost.

food waste digester

The co-op has provided two digesters on site for communal use. This is for the safe disposal of cooked food, meat, fish, bones, dairy products, bread and pasta. Please do not use them for green waste. It is designed to break down waste into carbon dioxide and nutrient rich water which drains away into the soil. and they are also rat-proof.

textiles

There are lots of easy ways to re-use or re-cycle textiles. For clothes that are still good to wear, why not continue the tradition of holding a clothes-swapping party, pass them onto a friend, put them on freecycle or give them to a charity shop. Clothes that are past their best can be cut into rags and used for cleaning, or bagged-up and given to Magpie for textile recycling, along with old pillows and duvets for example. Shoes can be given to charity or put into charity bins.

re-use

Dryad would encourage everyone to share resources. We can offer each other items that we no longer need, by posting them on a notice-board, or announcing in meetings. If no one in this community would like to reuse your items, then please use other ways of recycling them such as offering them community groups such as Magpie or posting them on the Freecycle website.

un-recyclables

Waste that can't be recycled, composted or reused, can be disposed of in the communal bins. By cutting out food waste from entering these bins, we are helping to reduce the rat population that lives off this waste. Wherever possible, Dryad would encourage all members to take personal responsibility for cutting down their un-recyclable waste. This can be achieved in various ways such as, choosing to buy products with the least amount of packaging, or refusing plastic bags and using a shopping bag instead for example.

2.Energy

Wood Fuel

It is Dryad policy to encourage all tenants to use wood and not coal for fuel. This is because wood can be sourced in a sustainable way from local sources, as opposed to coal, which is an unsustainable fossil fuel, mined from the earth, in other regions. Using wood for fuel means that our houses are rated as "very low carbon", because by burning wood, we are in this way diverting a waste product away from land-fill. It is our policy to continue developing good relationships with local tree-surgeons, in order that we can increase the supply of unseasoned wood stored on site to the point that we have 100% of our fuel needs met this way. However in the meantime, if you need to buy wood, please refer to the list of green products and services for recommended tree-surgeons.

Insulation

All the houses are built to the same standards of insulation. The co-op needs to be made aware of any obvious energy "leaks" in your home, for example if you know that rodents have removed some of the insulation in the walls and floors of your house, or if your double glazed windows are no longer performing as they should. It is the co-op's responsibility to ensure that all houses are insulated to optimum levels.

Energy sources

It is Dryad policy that all tenants use green energy suppliers for electricity. We recognise that sometimes the switch-over

to a green supplier can take time, but we need to have this accomplished by every tenant by December 2007. We recommend Good Energy, Ecotricity, and Scottish power, as they all invest in renewables and supply energy from these sources, as far as possible. However it seems that Good Energy are the most ethical suppliers, as all their energy is sourced from green sources.

Renewable energy options

The green group is currently working on developing renewables on site, ideas under discussion are solar thermal and wind. Please come to green group meetings if you wish to contribute.

Energy conservation

The most immediate things that everyone can do on a personal level is to reduce energy consumption and save money on electricity bills. This can be achieved by doing things like: switching off appliances instead of leaving them on standby; unplugging mobile phone chargers and using energy efficient light bulbs.

3. In the home

DIY

Dryad would encourage anyone wishing to redecorate their houses, to use eco-friendly paints where possible. There are companies who now produce a full range of eco-paints, in lots of great colours. A natural paint company called BIOFA has an outlet in Brighton. www.biofa.co.uk info@biofa.co.uk

furniture

Magpie Recycling Co-op has a warehouse, SHABITIAT, full of second hand furniture at reasonable prices, there are other good resources for finding secondhand furniture, like the Friday Ad, YMCA etc. Dryad recommends that where possible, we recycle our old furniture by offering it to other members, or offering it to Shabitat, so as to support another local co-op. Shabitat 01273 677577.

appliances

Dryad recommends that when members decide to purchase a new appliance, that they get the product that is the highest efficiency rating that they can afford. All appliances now have a rating by law, so it makes it clear to customers which ones are the most efficient.

buy local

Awareness has been raised about the impact on the environment caused by buying food that has to travel a long way to get to your plate. In a supermarket, most organic food is still flown half way around the world, and then packaged in plastic. Dryad encourages members to make informed choices about where their food comes from and its impact on the environment. Where possible it is good to support the local independent traders such as the Grocer at Fiveways, Infinity foods, farmers markets, and support veg box schemes from local farms.

cleaning products

There are many alternatives to using chemicals in the home. A Google search on eco cleaning tips leads to these useful sites:

www.channel4.com/4homes/style/eco_cleaning.html

www.kingswoodecocleaning.com/cleaningtips.html

www.kingswoodecocleaning.com/ourproducts.html

water use in the home

All Dryad houses are metered, so any water-saving you do will help reduce your water bill. Water-saving tips include the following:

When using the toilet, the saying goes "if it's yellow, let it mellow. If it's brown, flush it down!"

Fitting a brick or an inflatable item in the toilet cistern means that less water is used per flush

Leaving the tap running when brushing your teeth is an obvious waste of water.

When running the hot tap while waiting for the water to heat up, catch this water in a bowl and reuse.

4. Garden and food resources

water use

Dryad has provided every household with 2 waterbutts each. Please make good use of these during the Summer months. If you find installing them difficult then please let the co-op know and help will be arranged.

real food

Dryad has planted a variety of fruit trees and bushes for all members to harvest and share. Now that households have gardens, it is also recommended that members grow some of their own food. Seed and plant swaps help to encourage each other to achieve this aim. It can help to start small, perhaps with a few salads or tomatoes in pots or small raised beds. Other more confident growers have already developed their own local allotment plots, and will have advice to share with the less experienced. It is our aim at Dryad to share resources and knowledge, so that we all might enjoy the benefits of eating 'real food', grown organically, just a few yards from the plate.

wildlife

Dryad has encouraged wildlife by building bird nest boxes and bat boxes on workdays. There are more things that can be done to encourage even more wildlife into your garden, including creating a pond, providing bird feeders, creating

solitary bee houses and leaving piles of logs for hibernating insects and mammals. There is more information to be found on line, at sites such as www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/wildbritain

potential pollutants

It is important to keep the site environment clean for wildlife, so it is every persons' responsibility to clear up their rubbish. Dryad encourages every member to dispose of any harmful chemicals safely.

5.Travel

please think about these travel options wherever possible:

- 1) walk
- 2) bike
- 3) bus/train
- 4) car share (remember there is only space for one car per household in the top car park)
- 5) dont fly