



Linskill and North Tyneside Community Development Trust

Environmental Policy Linskill & North Tyneside Development Trust

Linskill and North Tyneside Community Development Trust (LNTCDT) operates within three community facilities that were built from 1932 to the twentieth Century. It is committed to maintaining, and wherever possible, improving the quality of this environment, both for the people who work or visit its community facilities. This commitment is reflected in policies which seek to make the most effective and efficient use of all our resources, minimise pollution, comply to relevant legislation and encourage all members of our community to develop a sustainable approach to their work and lifestyle.

We are committed to continuously improving our environmental performance and we are currently promoting the #KeepLinskillWarm Campaign to replace inefficient heating system and reviewing our energy consumption across the three community facilities

Mission

Our mission is to make LNTCDT recognised as one of the most environmentally sustainable Community-Led Trusts in the North East.

Aims

- To analyse LNTCDT environmental impact and initiate changes necessary to improve its environmental performance.
- To make all members of the LNTCDT community aware of their environmental impacts and to encourage them to develop sustainable approaches to their work and lifestyle.
- To work with the wider community, in order to implement environmental action plans.

Commitment

LNTCDT is committed to encouraging and supporting our community to reduce its environmental impact. We will work with our community to make our community facilities and community businesses more sustainable, reducing waste and increasing community engagement.

- Establishing indicators and targets for sustainability that will enable monitoring, reporting and continuous improvement.
- Complying with all relevant environmental legislation.
- Promoting environmental awareness within the LNTCDT community.
- Reducing our carbon emissions through the implementation of an Energy Management Plan.
- Making efficient use of resources to minimise our waste production whilst increasing recycling and reuse within all Centres.
- Conserving water.
- Seeking additional funding in order to carry out environmental improvements.
- Ensuring that environmental sustainability is considered in funding applications.
- Ensuring that environmental sustainability is promoted through Linskill Nursery, Squiggles & Giggles and all Community Development initiatives.
- Ensuring that we work in partnership with our Permanent Tenants to reduce Community Facilities' environmental impact.

- Enhancing the health of ecosystems and increasing the diversity of native species at all Community Facilities.
- Ensuring that environmental sustainability is central to the future development of LNTCDT.
- Working with the local community to help the region become more sustainable.
- Production of an Eco Code for all staff, Permanent Tenants, Volunteers and Visitors to follow.

Energy Management Plan

Senior Management Team, Heads of Department and Permanent Tenants can support LNTCDT to reduce its environmental impact by providing encouragement and assistance for staff and visitors, in the following:

- Identify items of equipment with high-energy demand and seek to avoid wasteful practices.
- Initiate a red, amber and green label on electrical equipment i.e. red cannot be switched off.
- Review Café 32 and catering equipment requirements, only switch on essential equipment, switch off after use and especially at the end of shift.
- Ensure that utility costs are fully considered in the decision-making process to purchase new equipment.
- Purchase only A rated energy efficient equipment.
- Ensure buildings are only heated based on use or occupancy times to ensure heating or other services are provided efficiently.
- Report building fabric, building services faults and energy wastage promptly to Linskill Centre Reception.
- Investigate if an automatic computer shutdown can be arranged on a nightly basis.
- Nominate a responsible member of staff or volunteer to act as an "Environment / Energy Champion".
- Identify and report opportunities for waste reduction in their work area to their Energy Champion.
- Adopt good housekeeping practices e.g. switch off equipment and lights when not in use.
- Reduce heat loss and solar gain by installing secondary glazing, double glazing or specialised window film.
- Installation of LED lighting, dusk till dawn, PIR, insulation and renewables devices in appropriate areas.

Biodiversity Plan

LNTCDT has a wide and varied range of trees and landscaped grounds. These are significant assets and provide unique opportunities for social, environmental, visual, educational and recreational use. LNTCDT will encourage the following:

- Review areas to be set aside for conservation or plant with native trees and shrubs.
- Seek advice and guidance from local community and specialists to ensure preservation and nurturing of biodiversity.
- Recycle green waste whenever possible.
- Encourage community learning through Forest School and Community Development programmes.
- Ensure regular litter picking.
- Only use substance that are not harmful to our community (COSHH).
- Install water butts in grounds.

Waste Minimisation Plan

LNTCDT operates three Centres within the North East, each producing a vast amount of waste. We seek to reduce the volume of waste going to landfill by encouraging the following.

- Review and reduce the amount of materials within Centres.
- Review materials and methods to reuse items within Centres.
- Ensure enough recycling facilities are available throughout Centres to appropriately recycle items that cannot be reused.
- Reduce paper usage, print double sided or avoid printing altogether.
- Reuse folders, files and stationery.
- Reduce or remove single use plastic.
- Promote bring a cup to Centre to ensure all regular Café users do not use single use cups.

Sustainable Transport

LNTCDT will promote and support sustainable transport for all Centre users, encouraging the following:

- Promote secure cycle parking.
- Promote benefits of walking to work and Metro travel to Centre users and staff.

Environmental Awareness

LNTCDT will raise environmental awareness through the following media:

- Permanent Tenant, Staff and visitor notice boards.
- Promoting environment initiatives on social media and website.
- Provide environmental awareness training for all staff.

Monitoring and Review

The Environmental Group will meet on a Bi-monthly basis to review actions and issue a report to Trust and Centres Staff, Permanent Tenants users. An annual report will be submitted to the Trust to coincide with the Annual Report.