

Environmental Policy

Statement of intent

Edinburgh Agroecology Cooperative recognises the connections between the climate and environmental crises and their impacts; the threat of current and future homelessness, disease, food and water shortages, and poverty for millions of people around the planet, as well as the major damage being caused to the natural world. In response, the Lauriston Farm project proposes a vision for an agricultural landscape focused on the positive relations that are possible between food production, nature and local community.

We use agroecological practices to support a regenerative approach to our work. We acknowledge that the industrial food system contributes significantly to soil degradation, water pollution, deforestation and loss of biodiversity, and consider our work part of the effort to find viable alternatives to this model. Regenerating our soils, health, water, wildlife and food requires a mindset shift from control to nurture, linear to circular, extractive to regenerative. It also requires community and the development of new supply chains. We commit to ensuring that a regenerative approach is not just an empty slogan, and to acting in support of wider advocacy work that seeks to further this cause.

We are conscious that our current activities do include the use of fossil fuels, could pose some risk to local wildlife, and create some waste that can't be repurposed. As part of our commitment to being an environmentally responsible organisation, we commit to continued work to reduce these impacts to the minimum, and further increase our positive impact.

What we are already doing towards this

1. Managing the land in ways that are ecologically, socially and economically sound, and respecting the connections between everything the land provides – habitat, food, livelihoods and community space.
2. Growing food in ways that rebuilds soil organic matter and restores degraded soil biodiversity, which removes carbon from the air and improves the water cycle.
3. Ensuring the environmental impact of any new work, commitments, projects or initiatives is assessed as part of the planning, procurement and delivery procedure. Where feasible actions are taken to mitigate against any negative impact that may be caused.

4. Reviewing the environmental impact of any current work, commitments, projects and initiatives and seeking ways to reduce the associated carbon emissions.

To further improve our environmental impact we commit to the following actions:

1. Lauriston Farm cooperative members take joint responsibility for acting on our commitment to becoming an environmentally responsible organisation.
2. Develop a system of review for tracking Lauriston Farm's environmental performance, which will be discussed as a scheduled item at cooperative members and staff annual planning and review meetings.
3. Lauriston Farm will observe existing environmental legislation as a minimum standard and seek to out-perform current legislative requirements where practical.
4. Include information on the co-operative's environmental practices in induction procedures for new staff/volunteers/members. They will have a responsibility to promote environmental sustainability by carrying out their duties in the most environmentally responsible way possible.
5. Members of the co-operative and stacked enterprise partners will work to support each other to ensure that sustainability is at the core of all work and practice.
6. Public access to the site will include restricted access to areas designated for biodiversity and habitat restoration.
7. Lauriston Farm will prioritise suppliers and funders whose environmental and ethical values align with our own.
8. Lauriston Farm will develop a sustainable transport policy for staff, members and visitors, seeking to reduce unnecessary travel and making the transport that is necessary as sustainable as possible.
9. Lauriston Farm will ensure events hosted or put on by the Farm will primarily reflect our environmental ethos and will bring people and nature together for the benefit of both.
10. Patrons, volunteers and visitors to the Farm will be encouraged to travel sustainably, preferably via public transport whenever possible and appropriate.

11. Lauriston Farm will strive to develop its role as a model for good environmental working practices and will share any knowledge and experience gained in how to achieve this, with other organisations.

Policy Review

Responsibility for reviewing this policy lies with the People and Policies working group. The implementation of the policy is a responsibility of all co-op members.

This environmental policy shall be reviewed annually or:

- in accordance with any changes in legislation and/or government guidance;
- following any significant changes to Edinburgh Agroecology Cooperative Articles of Association;
- following any other significant, applicable change or event.

Procedure Version Notes:

Version 1	Developed April 2024
Version 2	Reviewed April 2025
Version 3	Reviewed April 2026