

## Environmental Policy

### 1. Purpose

BW want to conserve and enhance the environment of the waterways as an essential part of achieving its vision. It is the quality and sustainability of the waterway environment that will attract people to them and ensure they become increasingly valued as a national asset.

### 2. Definition

Our environment covers the physical world that is common to everybody including air, water, land, flora and fauna. Our principles address the whole of the environment and our interaction directly or through our business activities with it.

### 3. A working, living inland waterway network

- 3.1 BW's waterways are used for navigation and general recreation. It therefore seeks to integrate the needs of those who visit and use the network with the actions needed to conserve the wildlife which contributes to the amenity of the waterways.
- 3.2 BW aims to become the acknowledged expert in achieving the most sustainable integration of the competing needs and uses of the waterways. Compliance with legislation and regulation is a minimum requirement. We will always aim to exceed this position, continually improve our performance and consistently achieve good practice.
- 3.3 Where balances and judgements have to be made between competing resources and conflicting activities, we will take the long term and strategic view. In doing so we presume that this will favour the conservation of the environment.
- 3.4 BW will carefully manage its environmental impact, including reducing the use of non-renewable resources, minimising waste, conserving water resources, promoting biodiversity and prevention of pollution throughout its' activities. BW are committed to the efficient and beneficial use of its land resource, with conservation and enhancement of the unique waterway landscape and character.
- 3.5 Regular review of its policies, procedures and systems will ensure that BW's environmental practices and performance reflect any changes in business circumstances, relevant legal and other requirements and customer expectations. BW will use the principles of environmental management systems. In particular measures taken to ensure high standards of environmental performance will be verifiable and auditable. Environmental performance will be measured through objectives and targets set as part of our business planning process. BW will maintain reports on progress on these Environmental Performance Indicators.
- 3.6 We will promote best practices amongst our employees, contractors, suppliers, customers and partners. We will seek suppliers, contractors and partners with standards consistent with our own.
- 3.7 This policy is available to all British Waterways employees and is freely available to members of the public.

**Consultees:** Paul Beckwith

**Authorised for Issue by:**



**Chief Executive**

**Date:** 15.01.08

**Custodian:** Jim Stirling, Technical Director