

Herefordshire Green Network

Ethical Policy

HGN Values

HGN primarily exists to support our Membership via the provision of a lively, resilient, credible Network where we can share information and support one another in pursuit of HGN's Mission and Aims (see Mission & Aims doc linked).

HGN Values are based on:

- the co-operative values of democracy, equality, equity and solidarity
- permaculture principles including earth care, people care, fair share and future care

HGN:

- Seeks to demonstrate ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others and the environment in which we live.
- Works to achieve a broad base of active members who make a positive contribution to the Network's governance and activities.

Digital Communications and Sharing Information

The Herefordshire Green Network (HGN) believes in the right to free speech, i.e. in the right of individuals and organisations to express their views and to publish information as they wish, providing that the publication of such views or information is not unlawful, and providing that it does not infringe upon the legitimate rights of others.

HGN:

1. Does not regard as freedom of speech the promotion of intolerance or prejudice on the grounds of race, gender, nationality, sexual orientation or belief.
2. Reserves the right to refuse to promote or publish information that, in its reasonable judgement, enable individuals or organisations to abuse freedom of speech or to promote intolerance.
3. Will not host on its servers or online presence any material deemed inappropriate or which may infringe upon the rights of its members, supporters or readers.
4. Will take down any posts, comments, or website links which in its reasonable judgement contravenes this policy.
5. Reserves the right to refuse to host any information for distribution via the Internet, which in its reasonable opinion would lead a significant number of its members and supporters to doubt its commitment to ethical and co-operative values.

Other Communications

Whilst undertaking activity & verbal communications on behalf of HGN, all HGN Members, employees, contractors & participants at HGN events and meetings are expected to treat others with dignity, respect and compassion, in order to foster a safe environment that is free of harassment, intimidation and unlawful discrimination.

Conflict Resolution

In the unlikely event of there being serious dissension amongst HGN Members concerning an ethical matter, HGN will consult initially with the HGN Steering Group and if appropriate with HGN Members and move forward based on the majority decision.

Purchasing

HGN will:

1. Seek to buy from local sources, supporting local businesses and reducing transportation costs and environmental impact, wherever possible and practical.
2. Source from suppliers with well-established ethical and environmental practices, wherever possible and practical.
3. Purchase Fair Trade and organic products, wherever possible and practical.
4. Purchase stationery and promotional material printed on recycled paper wherever possible & practical.
5. Treat suppliers fairly and pay within the agreed terms.

Environment

HGN is committed, where practical and within the resources available, to following environmental best practice in all of its activities. Specifically, HGN is committed to:

1. Using recycled paper and stationery.
2. Developing systems which significantly reduce paper usage.
3. Promoting the use of public transport, cycling and walking by its employees, directors and members.
4. Informing people attending events how they can reach the venue by car sharing, public transport, bicycle or on foot, and encouraging them to do so.
7. Recycling waste products in line with local authority provision and collection.
8. Encouraging its team and members to consider the environment in all aspects of their activities.
9. Avoiding the use of plastics wherever possible.