



Environmental Policy

New Caledonian Woodlands is an environmental NGO as well as being a social enterprise. We are here to play our part in preserving the planet at a time when the threats are daunting. We live in the age of peak oil, peak energy and possibly peak utilisation of many of the resources we take for granted. In the future we will have to make do with less and our successors will be amazed at how profligate and irresponsible we were with their heritage.

At New Caledonian Woodlands we try to be part of the solution, not part of the problem, although we are often tied into wasteful systems like everyone else, such as transporting our volunteers to site. We constantly strive to minimise our impact.

Our work always has a positive impact on the environment. We thin woodlands to encourage higher quality trees which can be used for durable products, which lock up carbon for a long time. We prune trees for the same reason. We stack the thinnings in our trade mark tipis to dry in the wood and make good wood fuel. The logs substitute for fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas, and are almost carbon neutral. We heap the smaller material in habitat piles to provide shelter for insects, birds and small mammals. We coppice trees for wood fuel and to increase biodiversity. We cut back invading vegetation like *Rhododendron ponticum* to let light in to the woodland floor and increase biodiversity. We build paths, bridges, sensory gardens, raised beds and bottle greenhouses to help people enjoy the outdoors, become more healthy and support other green projects.

Instead of all coming to a worksite in separate cars, we encourage car share and use a minibus for our weekend activities. The minibus is hired from a sister environmental organisation, the Green Team, and helps to support their activities. We always leave a site neat and tidy when we are ready to go home. We supply refreshments during the day and meals at weekends. We use organic food whenever possible, reducing the use of pesticides and fertilisers. We also buy locally sourced and Fair Trade food as much as we can, although trying to get all three in the same product can be quite a challenge. We support local businesses when we buy materials and repair & restore our tools when they wear out.

We encourage our volunteers to sign up to our Planet Pledge Project where they measure their individual carbon footprint and then take pledges to reduce it over the coming year with input and support from other pledges and our staff.

New Caledonian Woodlands isn't perfect but we think about everything we do, and with the help of our volunteers, we try and come up with solutions which ease the pressure on the planet.