

Sarah Urwin Therapy Services

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Sarah Urwin Therapy Services actively promotes procedures which help us all to: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and we advocate sustainable production methods wherever possible.

1. Reduce

At Youngs Farm we do not use any chemicals, including herbicides or pesticides, nor would we, unless specifically instructed to do so by DEFRA, or another government agency, for legal reasons.

We use low impact or environmentally friendly cleaning materials and dispose of these safely, protecting our own and other local water sources.

We grow all our grass organically, using only naturally occurring FYM or hydra-lime to fertilise and improve pastures. Where we need to buy in hay for the winter we only buy organically grown hay or haylage for stock.

In order to maintain best practice in animal husbandry techniques we use as few medicines and other treatments as possible, and only then when advised as essential by our vets.

Most of our business and farm records, and associated information, are now stored electronically in order to save paper, ink, and other materials needed to produce and store hard copies of documents.

Mains water is only used in the indoor office and toilet area. All water for the main farm yard and paddocks comes from several recycled rainwater systems. In the office and toilet area water butts provide rainwater for boot and equipment washing.

All lighting for the main farm yard comes from lights powered by solar panels. Use of electricity for lighting and heating is restricted to the indoor office and toilet area only, with heating being provided by an air source heat pump and the outdoor lighting being powered by solar panels. 14 solar panels on the roof of the south facing office also help to reduce electricity costs.

At Youngs Farm we only run one farm vehicle and clients, students and supervisees are encouraged to share transport to and from the site, where possible. We also encourage the use of our two local railway stations (both within walking distance) and we are happy to collect clients and students from the stations when necessary.

2. Reusing

At Youngs Farm we avoid buying one-use disposable materials such as plastic or paper cups or plates, and instead encourage clients and students to bring their own personal water and food containers with them for sessions.

We repurpose many materials that arrive on the farm including pallets, paper and packaging, and cardboard. Pallets are re-purposed for other uses including storage, paper is shredded and used for bedding, and cardboard is used for weed suppression in the vegetable garden area.

3. Recycling

At Youngs Farm we ensure that all recyclable materials are correctly dealt with on a daily basis. We separate out glass, paper, tins, metal, and plastics, which are collected by our local recycling centre. We compost vegetable waste, and recycle cardboard in the garden. Some food waste is also used for other animals but this is very carefully monitored.

4. Sustainable production

We use wood pellet bedding for all the animals at Youngs Farm which is produced from sustainably managed forests in the UK.

5. Tree and hedge planting

We have an ongoing tree and hedge planting programme at Youngs Farm and over the last 20 years we have planted over 450 hedging plants along two 50 metre sections of traditional Devon bank. In addition we have planted over 30 single native trees, mostly oak and ash, forming 3 separate small wooded areas which act as shelter for the horses and other animals.

We regularly monitor our Environmental procedures and update our policy in order to further reduce, reuse, recycle, or eliminate if possible.