

Environmental Action Plan

February 2026

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1. Introduction

The Future Farms Partnership aims to establish 100 new agroecological farming enterprises in Powys to improve food security, diversify land use, and regenerate rural communities. Environmental sustainability is embedded in this mission since agroecological farming supports climate mitigation, biodiversity, and ecosystem health.

This Environmental Action Plan outlines the actions the partnership will take internally and across its communities to reduce environmental impact, increase nature-positive outcomes, and ensure responsible resource use throughout project delivery.

2. Actions to reduce environmental impact

2.1 Low-carbon practices

Transport and travel

- Encourage use of low-carbon travel for all partnership meetings, training, and farm visits (e.g., public transport, cycling, car sharing, virtual meetings where possible).
- Prioritise local suppliers and consultants to minimise travel emissions.

Farm development materials

- Source building and agricultural materials with low embodied carbon and environmental certifications where feasible.

2.2 Energy and resource efficiency

The aim is to reduce energy-related emissions and support renewable energy generation.

Energy efficiency in farm infrastructure

- Install energy-efficient lighting (LED), heating, and insulation in farm buildings and shared facilities.
- Consider renewable energy systems (solar, biomass) for power needs.

Green Energy Procurement

- Purchase from green energy providers for any shared facilities, offices, or community hubs associated with the farms.

Purpose:

2.3 Waste and materials

Waste reduction

- Stipulate, as part of the agroecological method, reduce-recycle-reuse systems on all farms (composting, segregation of waste streams, re-use of materials where possible).

Packaging

- Minimise single-use plastic in offices and farm operations; seek bulk purchasing and reusable solutions.

2.4 Nature and biodiversity

Habitat enhancement

- Stipulate, as part of the agroecological method, biodiversity enhancement measures on all farms such as hedgerows, flower margins, cover cropping, and native tree planting.

Soil health

- Stipulate, as part of the agroecological method, practices on all farms such as cover cropping, reduced tillage, organic matter inputs and agroforestry components to improve soil carbon storage and resilience.

3. Monitoring, reporting and continuous improvement

Implementation of the measures listed in section 2 above will be monitored through the Task Groups. The Partnership will compile monitoring data annual to produce an annual environmental report that outlines progress, challenges, and next steps.

FFP will review the Environmental Action Plan annually and update actions based on performance data and evolving best practice.

4. Community engagement

FFP will explain the agroecological method in all its engagements with communities during project activities and in all its dealings with local policy makers and politicians.