



## Environmental & Sustainability Policy Statement

Within the Group of Companies, senior management and its employees initiate and provide full support to all environmental policies and practice. The Waste Management Committee and Quality Management Group all assess the environmental impact of the Business. The Company will always comply with all the relevant regulations and legislation. In addition, we will continue to develop, maintain, and implement policies, procedures and management systems that enable us to assess the environmental impact of our operations. We are committed to reducing our energy consumption, emission of greenhouse gases, primary wastes, and the environmental impact of the Company.

The Group is committed to improving its environmental performance and it is continually developing its environmental management practices to achieve positive and sustainable benefits. The Group is equally committed to ensuring that the necessary human and financial resources required to implement its environmental policies are made available.

### Key points:

- Minimise waste by evaluating operations and ensuring they are as efficient as possible.
- Minimise toxic emissions through the selection and use of its fleet and the source of its power requirements.
- On going trials of different substrates for the growing of bulbs in pots and containers.
- Actively promote recycling both internally and amongst its customers and suppliers.
- Source and promote a product range to minimise the environmental impact of both production and distribution.
- Meet or exceed all the environmental legislation that relates to the Company.

### Growing Media

At present the company uses a range of growing media in its' products. Over the past 6 years the company has been working to reduce the amount of peat used annually. This work has included trialing Jiffy peat-free coir pellets to discover whether they are viable alternatives for our added-value products and developing a new peat-free bulb fibre to replace our previous peat-based product.

The coir pellet trials have proved very successful, and we have incorporated them into our range of added-value products. The pellets are RHP certified and made from coconut fibre pith & husk chips/crush which is waste material from the food industry. We have found that the coir pellets performed as well as, and in some cases better than, the peat-based alternatives during growing trials, and well against our previous peat-free growing media.

Our "Grow Your Own" added value products generally contain a pot or container, bulbs, or seeds plus suitable growing media for each product. The peat based and peat-free compost we have traditionally used was purchased in bulk and packed into suitable size plastic sachets for use in our products.

All products packed on-site by Taylors are now completely peat-free. Only a small volume of products sourced from external manufacturers now contain peat.

Ongoing, we are reviewing all remaining products where peat-based growing media is still used with the target of replacing it with a peat-free alternative and eliminating our use of peat. Taylors Bulbs continues to closely

follow developments in the use of alternatives to peat-based growing media and the company regularly trials new compost mixes and this is part of the role of our Quality and Technical Manager.

Similarly, the Waste Minimisation Committee will continue to measure packaging and other waste, introducing improved measurement and reporting on all matters associated with waste control. Benefits to the Company following the implementation of selected initiatives have already helped us achieve waste reductions, and therefore reduce our overall waste costs. We remain compliant with the Agricultural Waste Regulations introduced 2006 and Packaging Waste Regulations 2007.

#### **Energy:**

- **ELECTRICITY** - *To strive at all times to reduce the amount of electricity used by, switching off appliances, purchasing (where practicable) non-electrical or electrically efficient machines, improving building insulation, checking door seals, purchasing 'Green' energy, micro generation, choosing the correct appliance for the job – and staff training.*
- **PROPANE GAS** - *To reduce the use of propane throughout the sites by; regular maintenance of all gas-powered machinery and heaters, improving insulation, regular checks on all thermostats, maintaining gas forklifts and heaters, reporting leaks, gas container care, staff training.*
- **DIESEL / PETROL** - *To reduce the volume of diesel/petrol consumed by the Group through; regular and effective maintenance of vehicles, maintenance of machinery, eliminating unnecessary journeys, purchasing more efficient vehicles and machinery, checking tyre pressures, reporting leaks, staff training. Moving over to hybrid & electric vehicles as and when possible.*
- **KEROSENE** - *To reduce the volume of Kerosene used through; regular maintenance of both thermostats and boilers to ensure optimum performance, insulating buildings, reducing drafts, switching off boilers/heaters when possible, researching optimum temperatures for stock control, continual monitoring, staff training. Optimising the energy produced by our solar panels.*

#### **Water:**

- **RAINWATER** - *To increase the volume of rainwater collected and utilised in the Group by: installing more rainwater storage tanks at all sites and within new project builds. Using rainwater rather than tap water for purposes such as spraying, cleaning of vehicles and equipment – and through training staff.*
- **TAP WATER** - *To reduce the volume of tap water used throughout the group by: using rainwater rather than tap water where possible, monitoring water usage in order to ascertain information about possible leaks, installing self-closing percussion taps, maintaining pipes and hoses in order to prevent leaks – and through staff training.*
- **DRAINAGE WATER** - *To comply with all relevant Regulations and to ensure that operators are aware of both their own and the Group's responsibilities. To identify and map all water course and storage areas and possible problem areas throughout the Group. To reduce the risk of possible contamination by maintaining equipment to a high standard. To ensure that 'buffer strips' and Local Environment Risk Assessments for Pesticides (LERAPS) are complied with and documented. To maintain an Emergency Action Plan and to make sure that spillage kits are available. To carry out staff training for all concerned.*

#### **Transport:**

- **JOURNEYS** - *To minimise the mileage of delivery vehicles through the use of centralised route and load planning systems. Small loads to be sent either by courier. To coordinate centrally collections from suppliers. To ensure all drivers are properly trained and thoroughly familiar with the Group's 'Company Vehicle Drivers Policy'.*
- **CONTAINERS** - *Where possible, the Group will use uniform 'multi-trip' containers to bring sourced product into the site – and for despatching product out. Throughout the design processes to assess the practicality of using reusable and/or returnable containers for product storage and shipment. To train staff and brief customers accordingly.*

#### **Waste Packaging & Materials:**

- **PRODUCT / BULBS** - *To source products from farms and businesses that stand out as environmentally sound practitioners. This to be achieved by visiting suppliers regularly and verifying their environmental credentials. To train the Group's purchasers to assess the environmental responsibility of suppliers, their crop rotations, and the quality of all incoming goods to the site. To reduce surplus stock through accurate stock taking.*
- **CARD / PAPER** - *To source both paper and card from environmentally responsible manufacturers and suppliers. Where possible, to change from 'virgin' paper to 'mill broke' or fully recycled alternatives. Wherever possible, to recycle paper and card. To train staff accordingly.*

- **WOOD** - To assess the volume of virgin wood used annually – and to explore possible alternatives to wood and ways in which to reduce the volume of wood used. In the meantime, to purchase only wood grown to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standard, to re-use wooden products wherever possible – and to recycle waste wood.
- **PLASTIC** - To assess the volume of plastic and plastic films used in the Group's operations. Where possible, to use alternative environmentally friendly materials. Where there is no alternative, ways of reducing the volume are to be explored. Waste plastic is, where possible, to be recycled rather disposed of.
- **METAL** - Very little metal is used in any of the Group's operations and processes other than in buildings, machinery, and vehicles. As a result, the Group's obligations under The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) 2007 are complied with every year. Nevertheless, it is the policy of the Group; to assess continually the use of metal within the Group – and, where financially possible, to make reductions in its use. To inspect regularly metal items and equipment for signs of stress and serviceability to prolong their useful life. To collect all scrap metal for recycling – and to train staff to use scrap metal bins.
- **RUBBER** - Only small volumes of rubber are used in the Group's operations and processes. The largest contributor to waste rubber is through used or damaged tyres. The Group's policy is therefore to reduce the wear on, and extend the life of, tyres through careful training of both drivers and operators. At the same time to ensure, through regular inspection, that all are fit for purpose and comply with all relevant regulations.
- **OIL** - The Group has bunded waste oil collection tanks which are emptied through a licensed Waste Oil Contractor. The Group policy is to control centrally the collection of all waste oil: to train staff to ensure waste oil is collected into the appropriate bunded tank. Beyond this, every effort must be taken to reduce the usage of oil.
- **CROP RESIDUE** - To ensure that there is no detrimental impact on the environment as a result of the incorporation of crop residue. To train staff to recognise any problems that may arise as a result of crop residue and the resulting odour – and to act accordingly.
- **GLASS** - Only very small quantities of glass are used throughout the Group. Nevertheless, the Group's policy is to recycle all glass, except in the case of hazardous waste (e.g. fluorescent tubes). To this end, 'safe to use' glass recycling bins have been distributed throughout the site.
- **COMPUTERS / ELECTRICAL** - Where possible, to purchase long lasting electronic equipment or leasing as a way of reducing waste electronic equipment. To comply with all EU and UK Directives and Regulations when disposing of and office equipment – noting that Waste Transfer Notes must be collected.

#### **Machinery:**

- **OFFICE** - All electrical equipment should be turned off when not in use and not left on 'standby'. Research to be conducted into the fitting of automatic 'cut off's' and light sensitive switches. Where practical, lights to be on sensors.
- **FORKLIFTS** - To replace diesel powered lifts with electrical lifts where possible. To reduce overall the number of forklifts used on site and, where possible, replace the use of lifts with manual pallet trucks. To ensure that staff are trained to use all lifts efficiently.
- **TRACTORS & AGRICULTURAL MACHINES** - When purchasing new tractors to take into account not only price but performance, fuel consumption and service life. To continue to assess crop production methods across the Group and, where possible, explore alternative methods of production.

#### **Buildings/Land:**

- **OFFICES** - Continually to assess the needs of the workforce to ensure that they sufficient light and optimum working temperatures. To design all new buildings to maximise natural light and to incorporate good insulation to reduce running costs. Automate all heat controls (in both old and new buildings) and service them regularly. To train staff to switch off lights, heat and air-conditioning when not needed.
- **SHEDS** - New farm buildings to be sited in the most environmentally appropriate place. Construction to comply with all relevant planning regulations. Cladding to be highly insulated to reduce heat loss or gain. The use of natural light to be maximised to reduce electricity. Shed usage to be optimised.
- **LAND** - To assess crop production techniques on a regular basis. To adhere to and exceed all Government regulations and directives. To complete and pass all statutory and customer audits including: Assured Cropping, Assured Combinable Crops, Assured Produce, Crop Protection Management Plan (CPMP), Soil Management Plan.

#### **Pollutants:**

- **NOISE** - To attempt to reduce the volume of noise emitted from the site and by vehicles. Methods to include regular maintenance and servicing of vehicles, keeping doors closed in areas of high noise levels, the erection of baffles, replacing noisy machinery when affordable and practicable – and staff training.

- **LIGHT** - *All new lighting to be of low energy consumption standards. All external light systems to be of the lowest wattage that it is practical and safe for the work concerned. Sensors of movement, time, or light amplitude to be installed on all external lights – which should all face down.*
- **ODOURS** - *Very few odours are produced as a result of the processes employed. Bonfires are not permitted, and crop residue is incorporated back into the field from which it came in accordance with the DEFRA Codes of Cross Compliance and of Good Agricultural and Environmental Practice.*

### **Integrated Management Plan**

O. A. Taylor and Sons' main holding is situated to the North of Holbeach in South Lincolnshire. The farm collectively extends to 764Ha with the main enterprises being bulbs, potatoes, winter wheat, vegetables and sugar beet. The cropped area is characteristic of the Fens with a large open low ridged landscape, few features and with the groundwater controlled by pumps and ditches (Mean height is 3.5metres above sea level).

The farms support a great variety of wildlife habitats, including a number of recently planted woodlands, a network of ditches, set-aside stubbles, hedges and an impressive mature tree avenue. These habitats are important to a number of species including Corn Buntings, Skylarks and Song Thrush etc. In addition, many of these habitats are linked by hedges and grassy areas improving the movement of animals around the farms and therefore extending the resources of the habitats. Buffer Zones and Field Margins are being implemented across the farms in accordance with the Entry Level Scheme.

There are many species of conservation interest across the farms indicating the existence of important feeding and breeding areas. These species include:

- Brown Hares, an animal targeted for conservation under the Government's Biodiversity Action Plans.
- Barn Owls and Buzzards, which have recently increased in the fen due to the joint actions of landowners and the Hawk and Owl Trust.
- Skylarks, though their strong hold is within East Anglia they have declined nationally in large numbers.

There have been extensive amounts of landscape and conservation improvements on the farms demonstrating the continued interest and commitment to wildlife conservation of the business. The many habitats are at all different stages of development, with some well-established, such as the mature woodlands, and others developing well, the new tree plantations. These habitats on the farms will continue to be of value in the future, benefiting a great number of different species.