Our commitment to sustainable procurement

The Eden Project is a major consumer of goods and services in the Cornish economy, spending more than £10 million a year with local businesses. The purchasing decisions we make have considerable economic, environmental and social consequences on communities on our doorstep as well as impact on supply chains further afield. We commit to maximise the positive effects derived from the purchasing decisions we make, by making responsible and informed choices. To ensure Eden's procurement decisions are economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound, we have set ourselves the following principles:

• Support Local and Global

We strive to benefit the local economy and to reduce our carbon footprint by sourcing as much as we can from producers and suppliers of goods and services in Cornwall and the South West. We support global trade as well and take opportunities to support communities in emerging economies elsewhere, particularly through fair trade schemes. We condemn compulsory or forced labour in all its forms and will do all we can to support the Government's implementation of the Protocol on Forced Labour and other relevant treaties. We do not buy products containing palm oil unless the oil is Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and we are phasing out products containing non-certified palm oil. We do not buy anything that contravenes the Convention on Biodiversity or the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). We do not buy any counterfeit goods.

Use less and close the loop

We strive always to use resources wisely. This means designing out waste from products and processes, substituting materials (particularly plastics) for more sustainable alternatives (for example natural, recycled, reclaimed or recyclable material), and ensuring suitable storage facilities to ensure durability. Considering a product's entire life-cycle already at the procurement stage ensures we identify ways to close the loop of the materials we use when they reach their end-of-life. This will enable us to reach our Wasteline targets of sending zero waste to landfill and boosting our recycling figures to 80%.

Collaboration

We are dedicated to working collaboratively with our suppliers and partners in Cornwall and internationally to develop and implement more sustainable procurement practices wherever we can. We see this as a great opportunity to push the boundaries and drive innovation in the supply chain, from the development of more sustainable products to collective buying systems and animal welfare issues.

Education

From construction materials for our buildings to food items served in our cafes and the products for sale in our shop and online – all should reflect Eden's ethos. We must never compromise Eden's message – here in Cornwall or elsewhere - by the things we buy or encourage others to buy. We sell useful and educational products and materials, many of which are made of plants, natural or recycled material; things that promote sustainable living; and/or products that are fairly traded. Their stories encourage visitors and staff to make a positive difference. We are committed to assisting our staff and partners, especially those who buy products and/or services for us, to make responsible purchasing decisions by providing them with the necessary training and support.

We will review our purchasing processes and principles regularly to ensure that we improve and comply with all relevant legislation. This policy is reviewed on an annual basis and is communicated to all Eden staff, and shared with suppliers, partners and other interested parties.

Gordon Seabright Managing Director

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