



# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



# **NATIONAL TRACTION ENGINE TRUST**

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### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The National Traction Engine Trust (the "NTET") is a registered charity dedicated to the preservation, promotion, education and enjoyment of heritage steam traction engines on the road. We recognise that while our core activities involve historically coal-fired vehicles, we can still make responsible choices to reduce avoidable environmental impacts where practical.
- 1.2. As a volunteer-led organisation with no physical office and limited direct operations, our environmental focus lies in the way we manage events, communications, travel, and our use of materials.

### **2. Our Approach**

- 2.1. The NTET is committed to:
  - 2.1.1. complying with relevant environmental legislation and good practice;
  - 2.1.2. minimising unnecessary waste;
  - 2.1.3. reducing avoidable emissions in administration and event coordination;
  - 2.1.4. encouraging recycling and responsible material use at NTET-supported activities; and
  - 2.1.5. raising awareness among our members, organisers, and volunteers about small actions that contribute to improved environmental outcomes.
- 2.2. We fully recognise the historical nature of traction engines, their heritage significance, and the importance of their authentic operation, including the responsible use of coal. Our environmental approach will not compromise the preservation or operation of heritage machinery but will instead focus on areas where change is practical and appropriate.

### **3. Key Commitments**

#### **3.1. Event Planning and Participation**

- 3.1.1. Encourage event organisers to provide recycling facilities, minimise single-use plastics, and manage waste responsibly.
- 3.1.2. Promote shared transport and journey planning among volunteers and stewards where practical.
- 3.1.3. Reduce the use of printed materials at events where digital formats are viable and acceptable to participants.

#### **3.2. Materials and Publications**

- 3.2.1. Use FSC-certified or recycled paper for the NTET publications, including Steaming, where feasible.
- 3.2.2. Encourage bulk distribution or digital delivery of membership information and communications, while maintaining access for those who prefer physical formats.

#### **3.3. Administrative Activities**

- 3.3.1. Conduct trustee and planning meetings remotely where possible to reduce travel.
- 3.3.2. Use electronic documents and communications to minimise paper use.
- 3.3.3. Maintain digital recordkeeping to reduce resource usage.

#### **3.4. Waste Management**

- 3.4.1. While the NTET does not generate significant waste in its direct operations, we support the following principles:
  - (a) Reuse or recycle materials used at displays, stands, and exhibitions;
  - (b) Dispose of waste via licensed providers where relevant;
  - (c) Work with event hosts who have clear waste and recycling practices;
  - (d) Limit use of non-recyclable packaging in merchandise and promotional materials.

#### **4. Use of Alternative Fuels**

- 4.1. The NTET acknowledges the environmental considerations around the use of fossil fuels in steam traction engine operation. While coal remains a historically authentic and necessary fuel for many engines, we support efforts to:
  - 4.1.1. Explore and trial alternative fuels (e.g. biofuels, manufactured smokeless fuels, or lower-emission solid fuels), where these can be used without compromising engine safety, performance, or historical integrity.
  - 4.1.2. Share knowledge and experiences across the heritage steam community about cleaner-burning or locally sourced fuels.
  - 4.1.3. Engage in discussions with suppliers, engineers, and operators to understand future possibilities and constraints.
  - 4.1.4. Encourage rally organisers and operators to consider environmental impact as part of their fuel procurement and handling practices.
- 4.2. We respect individual engine owners' discretion on fuel choice and recognise that fuel availability, cost, and performance remain important practical factors.

#### **5. Public Education on Emissions**

- 5.1. As part of our charitable purpose, the NTET is committed to improving public understanding of heritage transport and its environmental context.
- 5.2. We will:
  - 5.2.1. Educate the public about the historical context of coal use in steam power and how it compares with modern emissions.
  - 5.2.2. Provide transparent information about the typical CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of traction engines and how these are managed responsibly at events.
  - 5.2.3. Highlight the difference between heritage use and contemporary fossil fuel dependency.
  - 5.2.4. Support displays and learning materials that help visitors understand environmental trade-offs and the value of preserving mechanical heritage.
  - 5.2.5. Share resources that promote thoughtful discussion about energy history, innovation, and environmental change.

## **6. Compliance and Responsibility**

- 6.1. The NTET is committed to meeting its duties under relevant environmental laws, including:

The Environmental Protection Act 1990;

The Waste Duty of Care Code of Practice;

The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations, where applicable.

- 6.2. Trustees, members, and volunteers are expected to uphold the principles of this policy in all NTET activities.

## **7. Continuous Improvement**

- 7.1. This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant and proportionate to the NTET's activities. We welcome input from members and affiliates on ways to improve our approach without compromising the integrity of our heritage aims and objectives. For more information, please contact the General Secretary at [general.secretary@ntet.co.uk](mailto:general.secretary@ntet.co.uk).