

A & E Thompson

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Environmental Policy

A & E Thompson (AET) is a family business with our roots firmly rooted in agriculture and the countryside around Hurworth Burn.

AET receives and composts biodegradable waste from the food, horticultural industries and councils. This waste is used as a nutrient replacement for inorganic fertilisers. AET actively seeks to provide environmentally preferable means of waste disposal for our clients.

AET recognises the need to ensure that our operational practices complement our organisational aims. We aim to carry out any trade and other ancillary activities whilst acknowledging the need to contribute to sustainability, and to the enhancement and protection of the environment. The measures below are intended to ensure that AET will minimise any negative environmental impacts, from its operation, and maximise the effectiveness of its environmental enhancement activities.

AET will strive to:

- Repair, Reuse and/or Recycle spent materials
- Dispose of waste appropriately
- Avoid disposable products and excessive packaging
- Use recycled products

AET, as a business, will:

- Continually improve its environmental performance
- Comply with all environmental legislation
- Source recycled content alternative products
- Reduce the environmental impact of all operations

1. Responsibility

1.1 The Managing Director is responsible for the implementation of the Environmental Policy and will ensure that all staff are familiar with this document. Any changes to the policy will be as a result of any decisions made at Staff and Management Meetings.

1.2 An annual report on progress on the Environmental Policy should be submitted by the Managing Director. This should form part of the AET Annual Report, though periodical reports may be made to the Board of Directors when necessary.

2. Practices

2.1 Lighting and heating – Within the constraints of the buildings they are working from, AET staff are to avoid waste of fuels for lighting and heating by turning off appliances when they are not in use.

2.2 Paper – Where practicable, AET will minimise the environmental impacts of its paper use. Methods for doing this include:

- Re-using paper and envelopes
- Recycling
- Double-sided photocopying
- Purchasing recycled paper products

2.3 Site Maintenance – Horticultural activities are to avoid chemical herbicides, fertilisers, pesticides, and fungicides and instead use 'organic' methods of pest control and maintaining soil fertility. AET should always look to increasing local biodiversity and maximise the use renewable, reclaimed, local materials.

2.4 Personal transport – AET staff are encouraged to maximise the use of bicycles and public transport for business travel. Staff should attempt to avoid "unnecessary" car journeys through lift sharing and route planning.

2.5 Contractors and suppliers – In choosing contractors and suppliers, AET will examine their environmental standard and record. Where possible, preference should be given to locally based contractors/suppliers and community enterprises.

3. Pollution Control

3.1 Groundwater and Watercourse Protection – All operational areas will be sealed with impermeable concrete. These will be installed with a fall to retain surface water and will be free draining to underground storage tanks. Liquids from the buildings, the compost pad, and material handling areas will either be reincorporated in to the feedstocks or tankered away for disposal at an approved site. Surface water that falls onto the operational areas will also be directed to underground storage tanks. All Environment Agency recommendations will be fully implemented and monitored with the risks to ground and surface waters regularly reviewed.

3.2 Dust – There are a small amount of activities on sites that may create dust, including:

- Unloading of feedstocks
- Shredding of woody material
- Mixing of feedstock
- Movement of feedstock/compost
- Compost turning
- Screening

These activities take place with moisture content monitoring and adjustment to suppress dust generation. The site will be kept in a clean condition to limit the creation of dust.

4. Odours

4.1 Causes of odour problems from composting sites can include:

- Poor site management, such as unattended feedstock piles
- The build up of anaerobic conditions
- Poor structure and moisture content during composting
- Delivery of odorous feedstocks
- Feedstock back log due to machinery fault/breakdown
- Creation of malodorous compounds in the composting process or in storage sumps
- Movement of composting mixture

4.2 To combat this, AET ensures the following:

- Shredding and screening of waste feedstocks will be carried out as soon as possible
- Where feedstocks are stockpiled they will be regularly monitored
- Service contracts for equipment will be negotiated to include next day service to ensure feedstock storage is not necessary
- A consideration of the moisture content of the compost will be made before agitating it
- An assessment of odour will be made daily at all processing points to ensure that nuisances aren't created

If odours are found to be becoming noticeable outside of normal operating parameters then further investigations will be immediately carried out to locate the source. Mitigation measures will then be taken, such as process review and refinement, the use of deodorising sprays and/or the capture and treatment of emissions or other similar remediation techniques.

5. Mud

5.1 To ensure that the area and roads surrounding the site is kept clean and mud free the following procedures will be followed:

- Collection vehicles and the unloading area in the building will be cleaned daily
- Yards will be kept clear of mud and detritus
- Daily inspection and regular clearing routines will be maintained

6. Noise

6.1 All machinery will be operated only during permitted operational hours (07:00 to 19:00). Unless exceptional circumstances dictate, machinery will be operated during a reduced working timeframe (07:00 to 17:00) to reduce noise levels outside of normal working hours.

7. Emissions to Air

7.1 Emissions from the composting system are controlled by the effective management of the composting process. Potentially emissive activities will only be carried out during periods of suitable weather conditions. Where strong wind speeds in the direction of any sensitive receptors are encountered, any activities that are likely to result in potential emissions to air will be put on hold until suitable conditions are encountered.

7.3 Liquids from the composting system is captured via separate drains and collected in underground storage tanks. Liquid is either reincorporated with compost at the sanitisation phase or when necessary; tankered off site for disposal at an appropriate licensed facility.

8. Litter and Debris

8.1 The site will be inspected daily and any remedial action will be carried out in line with our operational procedures.

9. Pests

9.1 Waste may attract vermin and flies if left lying around, to counteract this AET will:

- Received waste will be processed as soon as possible, at least within 7 working days of acceptance, as per the Standard Operational Procedures
- Signs of presence of pests will be monitored daily. If necessary a qualified pest control contractor will be brought in.

10. Alternative Energy

10.1 AET have 70 Hectares of Short Rotation Coppice for the production of energy and do not rule out the installation of a power plant or boilers to utilise this power. AET will minimise the energy usage in all buildings not available to be wired into the generators and use wherever possible energy saving consumables, e.g. low watt light bulbs.

11. Sustainable Land Management

11.1 The farm is a member of the farm assurance scheme, the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and the entry level scheme, all records required by the schemes will be kept up to date at all times. The higher level scheme will be applied for when the land and forms are eligible.

11.2 Full usage should be made of the nutrient availability for the crops provided by the compost applied. Great care is to be taken never to cause pollution of the land, water or air at any time.