

The Oak Tree Low Carbon Farm Carbon Policy

V6 May 2014

Our aim is to create a financially viable and environmentally sustainable farm producing a plentiful and diverse supply of nutritious food for the community of people that works on the land.

The Oak Tree Low Carbon Farm is run by Joanne Mudhar and Eric Nelson, aided by members of the farm's Community Supported Agriculture Scheme (CSA).

What we're doing to reduce our Environmental/Climate Change impacts:

- Carbon sequestration in the soil.
- Reduced fossil fuel use on the farm, using hand tools where possible along with regenerative agriculture techniques, and only small-scale efficient machinery where necessary.
- Very local delivery (East Ipswich, Kesgrave, Ipswich town centre) with members' delivery groups to reduce vehicle use and encouraging cycle journeys to the farm.

See "Carbon Action Plan" for details.

We regularly review how we work, and we further reduce our carbon emissions when new techniques, new technology or new funds enable us to do so. Every two years, once we've received our soil test results, we review:

- this policy
- our progress against targets
- our plans for further reducing our impact, if possible.

We keep a record of all fossil fuels used, and keep a record of the soil organic content. We have a simple aim: for the farm to be carbon neutral or negative.

Our procedures for undertaking sustainable procurement:

- Is it really necessary? Can we produce it on site? E.g. comfrey for tomato fertilizer grown on site, most soil fertility produced on site by green manures.
- If it is necessary, how can I reduce the carbon impact of delivery? E.g. Buy timber from local sawmill (Nelson Potters), horticultural supplies from local supplier at Claydon.
- If it is really necessary, use second hand where possible so long as fuel emissions of delivery not excessive – e.g. reusing waste materials for infrastructure including animal housing construction and legal waste food for animal feed.
- If not available second hand or quality might be too much of an issue then try to get from UK suppliers/importers e.g. Woodlands sheds in Yorkshire, UK importers of Swiss wheel hoe and row seeder.

Signed:

Date:



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Low Carbon Farm