



## **Environmental Policy**

White Moss Horticulture Ltd. is in the process of working with the Mineral Planning Authority to develop a logical and structured end date program for the Company's extraction site. This will be designed to allow an orderly working of the land and ensure restoration when appropriate.

White Moss has to operate within the requirements of the planning system to ensure that operating practices are acceptable. Prior to their implementation after-use plans must all be approved by the Minerals Planning Authority, with input from organisations such as Natural England and the Environment Agency.

### **1. Restoration & After-Use Policy**

White Moss regards restored peat extraction sites as a valuable resource in its own right. The company is therefore working to develop environmentally sustainable after-uses for worked out peat sites.

### **2. Production Policy**

It is the White Moss policy to maximise energy efficiency in the production process and energy efficiency is also to be promoted within the company offices to reduce costs.

White Moss is continually monitoring their product range and is researching the recycling of green waste through composting. Peat free compost and reduced peat mixes are already offered, including composted bark.

Environment Agency Guidelines are followed throughout the production process (e.g. bunding of oil and fuel tanks). Stored peat is compressed to minimise run off and windblown losses. Fertiliser and other inputs are stored indoors to avoid pollution and losses.

All factory waste polythene is sent to be recycled and is produced using processes and materials that cause the least harm to the environment.

Reusable pallets are employed for distribution purposes and 46 tonne gross lorries are employed in order to reduce the number of lorry movements. Haulage companies organise dedicated return loads to maximise efficiency.

### **3. Environmental Objectives**

White Moss has the following environmental objectives:

- To meet all planning requirements and obligations.
- To contribute to Government policy targets.
- To comply with relevant legislation.
- To meet the restoration objectives set out in the 'Restoration & After-Use Policy' and in doing so to ensure that the restoration of sites achieves a net conservation gain.
- We confirm that we fulfill our duty to apply the waste hierarchy as by regulation 12 of the waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

Progress towards achieving these environmental objectives will be monitored by a nominated White Moss employee and these objectives are reviewed annually.

### **4. Environmental Targets**

Current White Moss environmental targets:

- To meet the official Government target of achieving non-peat content for horticultural growing media sales.

- To contribute to achieving official Government landfill diversion and recycling targets.

## **5. Employee Environmental Programme**

White Moss is a small company and all of the staff are involved with environmental issues on a day to day basis. In particular White Moss ensure that staff are informed of the following:

- Health & Safety Issues.
- The importance of meeting all planning requirements and obligations associated with peat extraction planning permissions.

## **6. Regular Environmental Communication with Stakeholders**

As a horticultural growing media manufacturer environmental issues are, by definition, integral to all communications with all stakeholders. For example:

Legislators & Regulators – Peat extraction and processing and controlled by planning permissions with conditions designed to protect the environment. There is therefore an on-going dialogue with the planning authorities.

Customers & Suppliers – There is an on-going dialogue concerning environmental issues with both customers and suppliers.

Industry Associations – The Growing Media Association continually monitors environmental issues associated with the manufacture, sale and use of horticultural growing media. White Moss works to the Growing Media Association 'Code of Practice'.

Media – White Moss operates a responsive policy to media enquiries, and also publishes key environmental events, such as the development of alternative products.

## **7. Internal Environmental Audit Process**

Planning consents designed to provide environmental protection cover peat extraction sites and processing facilities. On-going internal auditing is therefore required in order to ensure that the conditions of these consents are met.

Environmental Policy Version 8

**Signed:**

**Steven Washington**

**Date:** 17/12/13