



Environmental Policy

1. Purpose

The Guild of St George exists to put John Ruskin's ideas into practice. It aims to work in the spirit of Ruskin's vision, promoting his values in the modern world. Ruskin was one of the earliest British writers on humans' impact on the environment, foreseeing the damage of industrial pollution.

The Guild nurtures connection and care for the environment through cultural activity which engages people with arts, crafts and nature. In the face of increasing climate crisis, it is a priority for us to reduce our own carbon emissions, build people's understanding, care and resilience through our active education and cultural programmes, and influence our partners and networks to take focused climate action.

The Guild has an internationally significant educational cultural asset in Sheffield, the Ruskin Collection; a working natural asset of woodland and farmland in the Wyre Forest - Ruskin Land; an international network of over 300 Companions; and Ruskin's resonant ideas and writings, through which it engages diverse communities with the environment. The Guild also owns a portfolio of tenanted property within which it is able to exemplify and implement best environmental practice, particularly with regard to energy performance. We have close links with other Ruskin-related organisations engaging with environmental issues, including Brantwood in Coniston, and The Ruskin at Lancaster University. The Guild is part of *Culture Declares Ecological and Climate Emergency*, a global network of creative practitioners and organisations committed to taking socially just climate action.

2. Commitment

The Guild's policy is rooted in a commitment to four of Ruskin's main ideas:

- There is no wealth but life
- Not for present use alone
- Rural economy
- Go to Nature

The Guild will:

- **Create and start delivering an Environmental Action Plan in 2020 to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero, and reduce waste across all operational and cultural activities, by 2030.**
- **Create active education and cultural programmes with Guild Companions, partners and local communities around the UK and abroad which inspire participants and audiences, and the Guild itself, to see and act differently.**
- **Implement carbon emission and waste reduction actions which create social as well as climate justice.**
- **Influence partners and collaborators to respond to the climate emergency.**

3. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or more regularly in the light of developing national or international policy on climate change.