



# RAVENGLASS AND ESKDALE RAILWAY

## 2024

# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Good environmental stewardship is fundamental to meeting the needs and expectations of all who enjoy the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway as well as to our long-term success as a business. We are therefore committed to integrating responsible and proactive, sustainable practices into our daily operations. We comply with, and exceed where possible, national environmental legislation and regulations to meet the environmental objectives of the Lake District National Park in which we operate.

We will work to identify, manage, and minimize the environmental impact of our activities in every part of our business, focusing on the effective and efficient use of resources, energy and fuel, minimising waste, and air emissions, and preventing pollution.

### We aim to:

**Protect the Landscape and Heritage** – our railway line runs through some of the most beautiful scenery in England. We are committed to preserving and enhancing this landscape through environmental management planning and sustainable forestry practices along the railway line and around our stations. We will consider the environmental sustainability of any new buildings and developments we undertake and ensure that they meet high standards of design and are sympathetic with the Lake District National Park. We will increase awareness of our sustainable practices to all and continue support of conservation groups through visitor donation schemes.

**Reduce Carbon** – our railway operations use coal, diesel and electricity and we will continue to measure our consumption of these fossil fuels. We will seek to calculate and work towards carbon net zero target by 2037, through improving energy efficiency, using renewable energy sources and carbon offsetting.

**Water** – we seek to measure and manage our use of water in our washrooms and kitchens, aiming to reduce this where possible through proactive communications to our visitors and employees. Our steam locomotives also use considerable quantities of water. We will seek to reduce this by improved design and operating practices.

**Reduce Waste** – we seek to monitor and improve our waste hierarchy and move towards a zero-waste business. We ensure most of the waste we generate is reused or recycled to reduce our waste to landfill. We aim to keep our railway line litter-free and encourage our visitors to dispose of their waste in bins and recycling facilities at our stations. We will dispose of all hazardous waste in compliance with national regulations.

**Encourage sustainable travel** – our railway is part of the national rail network and, working with Northern Trains and other transport partners, we want to encourage people to access the Lake District in a low- carbon, sustainable way, using our railway as much as possible through incentives with through ticketing. We promote sustainable travel to/from and around the valley including use of EV vehicles. There are EV charge points at Ravenglass and Dalegarth stations.

**Source locally and sustainably** – where possible we aim to source locally the food and drink, we serve in our cafes as well as the items and gifts we sell in our shops. We have improved our 'local' supplier policy and where practical our ingredients are sourced within Cumbria.

**Environmental education** – our railway is a source of enjoyment for over 100,000 visitors each year. We believe we have a huge responsibility to encourage our guests to appreciate and learn more about the importance of the natural environment within the Eskdale Valley. We will maintain a dedicated responsible tourism page online in addition to local information on walking and cycling routes. We will also maintain and create events with local and national conservation groups such as the RSPB, Lake District National Park and Cumbria Wildlife Trust. We will continue and maintain standards through the work of our 'green teams' and participation in national accreditation schemes.



We will continuously review and improve our environmental performance and will report progress regarding the implementation of this policy and our commitments on our website. This policy will be reviewed annually for its continued relevance by our Board of Directors and published on our website

