



# ROYAL ULSTER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY **SUSTAINABILITY** **POLICY**

Adopted: July 2025

## **PURPOSE**

The Royal Ulster Agricultural Society (RUAS) recognises its responsibility to promote and embed sustainability throughout all aspects of its operations, events, partnerships, and community engagement.

As a leading agricultural society in Northern Ireland, the RUAS is committed to environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic resilience to ensure a thriving future.

# SCOPE

This policy applies to all RUAS activities, including but not limited to:

- Organising and delivering events such as the Balmoral Show, Royal Ulster Winter Fair, Royal Ulster Premier Beef & Lamb Championships and other RUAS events.
- Managing and maintaining the Eikon Exhibition Centre and other RUAS properties.
- Interactions with stakeholders, exhibitors, suppliers, contractors, staff, and visitors.

## OUR COMMITMENTS

### A) Environmental Sustainability

- **Carbon Reduction:** Monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions across our operations, with a long-term aim toward net-zero emissions.
- **Waste Management:** Promote the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle; minimise single-use plastics; and provide clearly marked waste bins at all events.
- **Water Management:** Monitor and reduce water consumption on site.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Invest in energy-efficient infrastructure, utilise renewable energy where possible, and encourage energy-conscious practices among staff and event participants.
- **Sustainable Transport:** Encourage public transport, car-sharing, and active travel options to and from our venues and events.
- **Biodiversity & Land Stewardship:** Protect and enhance biodiversity on RUAS land through appropriate landscaping, planting schemes, and responsible land use practices.





## B) Social Sustainability

- **Community Engagement:** Support rural communities, young farmers, and agri-food education through inclusive, accessible events and outreach.
- **Health & Wellbeing:** Provide a safe, welcoming environment for all attendees, staff, and partners.
- **Accessibility, Inclusion & Diversity:** Foster a culture of respect, accessibility, inclusivity and equality across all activities and stakeholder groups.

## C) Economic Sustainability

- **Long-Term Viability:** Ensure the financial sustainability of the Society through sound governance and responsible investment.
- **Sustainable Procurement:** Integrate sustainability criteria into procurement decisions, encouraging suppliers to adhere to environmental and ethical standards.
- **Support for Local Producers:** Prioritise Northern Ireland suppliers and promote local agriculture and food industries.

# IMPLEMENTATION & GOVERNANCE

- RUAS Management will champion sustainability as a strategic priority and integrate it into planning and operations.
- Sustainability objectives and KPIs will be monitored and reviewed annually.
- Training and awareness will be provided to staff, volunteers, and contractors to ensure consistent understanding and delivery.
- RUAS will collaborate with industry bodies, local authorities, and environmental organisations to share best practices and enhance impact.



# MONITORING & REPORTING

- Quarterly reporting on sustainability performance will be made available to the RUAS Finance Committee and annually to RUAS Council.
- Feedback mechanisms will be established to gather input from attendees, partners, and the public on how the RUAS can improve its sustainability practices.

## REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed at least every year, or more frequently if required, to reflect evolving best practices and stakeholder expectations.

Adopted: July 2025

