

Coolings and the Environment

At Coolings we are aiming to be the 'greenest' retailer in the UK and the environment is at the heart of our business. In order to achieve this aim here are some of the ways we are great at being green!

General

Coolings aim is to always be a leader as an environmentally sound business. As a business we aim to have the least impact on the environment as possible.

- Motion detectors have been installed on all lighting in the back office areas and rest rooms. This way lights are only on when people are in the rooms
- Energy efficient hand dryers are in the restrooms. This reduces the use of paper towels and linen towels again being more ecologically efficient

Water

We collect water from the roofs of buildings, glasshouses, polythene tunnels and run off from irrigation and pipe it to our two reservoirs. The total capacity of both reservoirs is 6.7 million litres (1.3 million gallons).

This allows us to be less dependent on hard tap water and also reduces our dependency on precious water resources.



The extensive use of drip irrigation and sub-irrigation, with plants taking up their water requirement through capillary action, conserves our precious water reserves. This also results in stronger, healthier plant growth with less need for chemical sprays

Pots and Carry Trays

Coolings encourages customers to return their used pots for recycling. Customers are provided with an area in our car park at The Gardeners Garden Centre to return their used pots. Where possible these pots are then reused on our nursery for our own production. All other pots are re-used if they fit our production schedule. Customers can also help themselves to any of these pots to reuse themselves.



This helps by reducing the number of pots going to landfill.

Polystyrene and plastic carry trays are saved to be used on the nursery or for our customers to

carry their purchases out to the car. Plant suppliers are encouraged to take back their trays and pots after we have potted up the plants.

Green Waste

Prunings, spent compost, dead plants and coffee shop vegetable waste is put on a compost pile to rot down for use as a soil improver.

We do not pot plants with this product, but mulch flowerbeds and incorporate it prior to planting. This is also sold to our customers as a low cost alternative soil improver

Recycle Banks

We have bottle and clothing recycle banks at both our sites, fully accessible to the public. The coffee shops also use this facility to further reduce their waste, recycling all glass bottles and tins used.

Solar Heating

Arthurs coffee shop has solar heating panels which are used to assist in heating the hot water for the wash room facilities. This helps in reducing the resources needed to provide hot water and relies on renewable energy. A read out of roof temperature is situated adjacent to the ladies toilet door in Arthurs.

Paper and printing

Our regular newsletter sent to over 29,600 customers is now sent in 100% managed forest envelopes helping to reduce the impact on the environment our newsletter has. All trees removed to produce our envelopes are replaced.

All staff are also encouraged to keep paper use to a minimum.

Cardboard / Plastic Recycling

Plastic and cardboard is bailed and recycled. This is then collected and recycled to be reused. In 2010 many tonnes of plastic and cardboard was saved from going to landfill.

Coolings Green & Pleasant

Our sister site is one of the most environmentally friendly garden centres in the country. Listed below is just some of the areas where Green & Pleasant reduces its impact on the environment.

- Biomass boiler for heating. The boiler burns any wood waste material from green garden waste through to waste pallets. This reduces the carbon footprint by reducing the sites need for fossil fuels.
- The walls are insulated with straw bales. These give great insulation whilst being a green product

- Roof insulation is significantly thicker than industry standards allowing for less heating requirements in the winter and less need to cool the building in summer
- Rain water is recycled to be used for flushing of toilets and irrigation on site
- Reclaimed timber has been used for the flooring which not only means it is used twice, it has less impact on the environment than concrete
- Clay pavers have also been used for the flooring. These have been sourced locally reducing carbon miles and much better than concrete
- Under floor heating has been used throughout the building. This is cheaper to run in the long term and also more efficient at heating
- North facing windows and a high level of glazed area reduced the need for artificial lighting.
- A building is built from a laminate timber frame. This is not only recyclable when it reaches the end of its life, but has been sourced from sustainable forests

Solar tube lights have been used in the rest rooms. This allows the sunlight to be harvested reducing artificial lighting needs

- Low flush toilets have been installed in the rest rooms reducing water requirements
- Motion detectors have been installed on all taps in the rest rooms again reducing water requirements and wasted water