

Environmental and sustainability policy



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Environmental and sustainability policy

The climate and ecological emergency already affects the lives of disabled people disproportionately. Disabled people are particularly at risk from the impacts of climatic changes resulting from human intervention as well as the social disadvantage that often accompanies this.

Activity Alliance acknowledges our responsibility to protect the environment in all areas of our work, from the projects and programmes we run, to our actions within the office.

We recognise the importance no matter how small, of the impact of our activities on the environment and that there is a need to constantly consider ways in which we can reduce our adverse impact on the environment, conserve energy and minimise waste in all activities that we undertake. The environmental policy is defined by the Board of Trustees of the organisation and provides the framework for setting and reviewing environmental objectives and targets.

Our environmental/sustainability action plan

We will assess the environmental impacts of our operations and set objectives and targets in order to improve our environmental performance. We will regularly review these targets.

We will:

- promote responsibility for the environment within and outside the organisation and communicate and implement this policy at all levels within the workforce;
- reduce the use of harmful energy, water and other resources;
- minimise waste by reduction, re-use and recycling methods;
- comply with all relevant environmental legislation/regulation;
- ensure that our policies and services are developed in a way that is complimentary to this policy;
- not prioritise funding needs ahead of sustainability requirements;
- identify and provide appropriate training, advice and information for staff and encourage them to develop new ideas and initiatives;

- provide appropriate resources to meet the commitments of this policy; and
- promote and encourage involvement in local environmental initiatives/schemes as part of volunteering leave
- ensure suppliers we work with are sustainable.
- It is important to note that in the interest of accessibility and inclusion, at times we will not be able to honour some of the commitments. This could include printing resources in various formats or inaccessible public transport for travel by disabled employees.

Key actions

- All waste is disposed of in line with legal and environmental requirements
- To utilise, and promote the use of, recycled materials whenever possible, ensuring that materials are disposed of in an environmentally safe manner at the end of their useful life.
- Maximise the use of SharePoint and other digital platforms as record storing avenue to reduce need for printing.
- Improve environmental awareness amongst staff and promote green housekeeping issues as well as encourage all staff to use green methods of transport when attending meetings or other events
- Consider obtaining ISO 14001 Certification.

Document Review

This policy will be reviewed by Trustees annually.

Dissemination & Implementation

The policy will be shared with all Trustees & Executive and will be available to all staff on the shared drive.

Document control & archiving.

The master version of this policy is the only controlled version. Any printed copies will be deemed only relevant as of the print date in the metadata.

Previous versions will be stored separately from the master version and archived accordingly.

