



Environmental Policy

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1 Introduction

YMCA Scotland as part of a global movement is committed to supporting young people and we believe it is crucial that we take responsibility for our environmental accountability to support current and future generations. This commitment reflects the principles of the UNCRC in ensuring that a clean and safe environment is provided for children and young people. Like YMCAs across the globe YMCA Scotland subscribe to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We recognise that we have a responsibility to the environment beyond the legal and regulatory requirements and we are committed to reducing our environmental impact and continually improving our environmental performance as an integral part of our business strategy and operating methods.

2 Aims

YMCA Scotland endeavours to:

- Comply with all relevant regulatory requirements
- Work with the YMCA movement to meet the targets of the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Continually improve and monitor environmental performance
- Continually improve and reduce environmental impacts in pursuing our charitable objects
- Incorporate environmental factors into business decisions, expenditure and investments
- Increase employee and volunteer awareness and training
- Invest in companies and businesses whose operations pursue environmental sustainability

3 Reduction, Re-use, Repurposing & Recycling

Paper

- We will minimise the use of paper in the office
- We will reduce packaging as much as possible
- We will seek to buy recycled and recyclable paper products
- We will reuse and recycle all paper where possible

Energy & Water

- We will ensure that Green Energy companies are used for the supply of utilities
- We will seek to reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible
- Lights and electrical equipment will be switched off when not in use
- Heating will be adjusted with energy consumption in mind
- The energy consumption and efficiency of new products will be taken into account when purchasing

Office Supplies

- We will evaluate the environmental impact of any new products we intend to purchase
- We will favour environmentally friendly and efficient products wherever possible
- We will reuse and recycle everything we are able to

Transportation

- We will reduce the need to travel where possible
- We will promote the use of travel alternatives such as phone/video conferencing
- We will ensure where travel is necessary all options will be considered to support reducing our carbon footprint including direct flights, how we travel within a country including the use of trains and buses, accommodation and cost

Maintenance & Cleaning

- Cleaning materials used will be as environmentally friendly as possible
- Materials used in office refurbishment will be as environmentally friendly as possible
- We will only use licenced and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste

4 Ethical Investments

YMCA Scotland will continue to manage the investment portfolio in line with the Trustees requirements that investments should be in line with the social, ethical and environmental values of the YMCA and in line with the guiding principles of the UNCRC. As such there will be no direct investment in alcohol, tobacco, arms or child labour. YMCA Scotland is working towards no direct investment in fossil fuels.

5 Monitoring & Improvement

- Comply with all relevant regulatory requirements
- Ensure our use of natural finite resources is sustainable, including business travel, energy usage, water, expenditure and investments
- Ensure that environmental factors are central in all our decision-making processes
- Increase employee and volunteer awareness and training in our YMCA network
- Continually improve and reduce environmental impacts in pursuit of our charitable objects
- Continually improve and monitor our environmental performance

6 Responsibility for Policy

Day to Day practice: Operations Director

Operational practice: National General Secretary

Executive Responsibility: YMCA Scotland Executive Committee

However, all employees and volunteers have a responsibility to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met.

ACCEPTED AS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2023

SIGNED _____ **National Council Chairman**

SIGNED _____ **National General Secretary**

This policy will be reviewed at 18-month intervals