



ACF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this environmental policy is to indicate our organisational commitment to addressing environmental issues within the Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF) and through the services we deliver. This document outlines what ACF will do to identify our environmental impact, how we will adapt to reduce our impact, and the responsibilities of team members in this space.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all employees, both full time and part time. The policy will be shared with suppliers, potential partners and consultants wherever appropriate to indicate our commitment to environmental action.

3. Action

ACF's mission is to strengthen foundations to rise to the challenges of our time. We believe that the climate crisis is a serious existential threat to our world and that all foundations should be intentional about their response. Climate breakdown is a threat to the pursuit of foundations' charitable missions, and our role is to support them in rising to that challenge, and for ACF as an organisation to do so as well. We are committed to accelerating a just transition to net zero and reducing the impact on the environment from our operations.

We will address this through the following areas of work:

3.1 Member engagement

ACF will strengthen its members to consider and respond to the climate crisis through a range of engagement methods, such as our events programme, member network meetings and our regular communications. We host the Funder Commitment on Climate Change (FCCC), a flagship initiative which provides a framework for foundations to apply a climate lens to their work, whatever their charitable mission.

The FCCC brings together both members and non-members who have pledged to take a range of climate related actions and considerations. We will survey signatories annually on the action that they have taken to put the commitment into practice, and publish the results.

We will continue to communicate how the climate crisis is relevant to our mission and the missions of trusts and foundations, to encourage awareness within our networks and the wider sector, and to encourage foundations to take action.

We also play a part in the international Philanthropy for Climate movement, which was initially inspired by the UK FCCC, to ensure that our members and FCCC signatories remain part of a global cause.

3.2 Staff engagement

We will promote responsibility for the environment within ACF and communicate and implement this policy at all levels of our team. To drive this forward, we will develop an Action Plan for ACF to continue to build on this Environmental Policy.

A staff climate working group will be set up to identify areas where action can and should be taken, with representation from all levels of the organisation. Further details of the group, its make up and terms of reference, as well as engagement with the whole organisation, will be confirmed during the rest of 2023.

The Board will be engaged through updates to the Environmental Policy, and reports on our actions and progress against the Environmental Policy annually.

3.3 Operations

The sustainability of our services is important for our members and the wider foundation sector. As part of delivering our mission in line with our values and objectives, we will assess the environmental impacts of our operations. A staff climate working group will be set up to consider our approach to objectives and targets around our environmental impact.

At present, our work around operations includes:

- Locating our office in Toynbee Hall's building at 28 Commercial Street, which has an Energy Performance Certificate rating of A (most efficient).
- Reducing utilities consumption in the office building and while home working, including by switching off plugs, lights, and other appliances that are not in use.
- Promoting and encouraging green travel choices from employees, and plans to outline a travel hierarchy as part of the Climate Action Plan.
- Providing recycling facilities for paper and plastic in the office.
- Encouraging staff to avoid printing unless necessary, and using recycled paper in the office printer.
- Trust and Foundation News is printed by publishers which use IPA (alcohol) free presses with paper that is FSC and PEFC certified.
- Reducing the number of publications we print, and recently testing an online version of Trust and Foundation News.
- Providing vegetarian catering only at all events organised by ACF, including events organised for our board and staff team.
- Communicating with our members about climate breakdown and how it is relevant to our mission, vision and values through the Funder Commitment on Climate Change, our events programme and on our website and social media.
- Many of our events are now accessible online, which reduces travel requirements, and we consider alternatives for materials for in person meetings and events.

3.4 Governance

Our board of trustees have overall responsibility for ACF and its strategy. The climate crisis is considered at a governance level through the following ways:

- Delivery of our strategy 2023 – 2027, which considers responding to the climate crisis to be a key challenge for our sector.

- Our risk register highlights a reputational risk to ACF if we are not seen to be taking actions which limit the impact our organisation has on climate breakdown, and to embed climate actions in our strategy, business planning and organisational goals.
- This Environmental Policy will be updated when necessary, and staff will report on ACF's actions and progress against the Environmental Policy annually.
- A review of ACF's pension provider led to a move to Aviva, which offers a wide range of funds including many ethical fund options. Staff now have more choice about where to invest their pension pot.

3.5 Suppliers and procurement

The suppliers of ACF will:

- Work with us to reduce the impacts of the goods and services purchased from them wherever possible.

As a small organisation, ACF is not a significant purchaser of supplies. Where practical our engagement with suppliers is designed to identify those with values which align with our own, and we will make clear our preference to work with organisations who minimise their environmental impact wherever possible. When we make purchases, we also look to select items which can be re-used where possible, such as banners, lanyards and badges, rather than single use items.

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