



**Ridley
Eye
Foundation**

Environmental
Policy

ridleyeyefoundation.org

Environmental Policy

The Ridley Eye Foundation acknowledges the connection between our climate and other environmental crises and the threat of current and potential future homelessness, disease, destruction of biodiversity, food and water shortages and poverty for millions of people around the world and thus its responsibility to reduce its own carbon and environmental footprints.

It therefore, as a Board, formally commits itself to being an environmentally responsible organisation. To take this forward it commits to the following actions:

Management

1. The Board mandates the CEO to take executive responsibility for taking forward and implementing this commitment.
 - The CEO is requested to report to the Board annually on progress made, including statistical information on REF and REF Nepal's annual environmental performance. See Appendix 1 for suggested data that should be reported. A separate report should be prepared for REF Nepal and for HACPN camps held during the reporting period
 - This annual environmental report will also cover any positive progress made in helping its clients and wider community improve their environmental performance
 - The annual environmental report will be presented at the same Board meeting as the annual accounts
2. Progress on improvement of REF's environmental performance will be a standard item at senior management meetings both for REF UK principally in respect of travel, and REF Nepal's High Altitude Cataract Project operational activities.
3. All staff contracts will include a clause stating that staff will be expected to help the REF in carrying out its aim of being an environmentally responsible organisation, in how they carry out their day-to-day duties. Relevant job specifications will be drafted to include relevant individual environmental responsibilities e.g. for facilities and financial managers and induction procedures for new staff will include information on the charity's environmental practices.
4. The Ridley Eye Foundation will ask all our current and future suppliers for their environmental policies and for

evidence of implementation of such policies and indicate that such performance will be used as criteria for supplier selection.

5. REF will seek to have relevant environmental clauses included in all future contracts agreed with outside bodies, and equally be committed to complying (in so far as practicable) with their own environmental standards.
6. REF will include environmental responsibility training in future staff training programmes. This will apply particularly to volunteers and advisers deployed by or representing REF on its overseas operations.
7. REF will seek to make all of its current and future premises to be as energy and water efficient as practical and will develop a Recycling and Zero Waste Policy with an objective of eliminating all waste to landfill / incineration and seeking to avoid creation of waste in the first place. Where it does not own premises, it will work with the owners to try and achieve this ambition.
8. REF if or when involved in lobbying various agencies will press for environmental policies to be integrated where relevant, including all local government and charity sector policies that affect the homeless, vulnerable and wider community.
9. The Ridley Eye Foundation will observe environmental legislation as a minimum standard and seek to outperform current legislative requirements where practical.
10. The Charity will develop and maintain a sustainable transport policy, seeking to reduce unnecessary travel and making the transport that is necessary as sustainable as possible and will monitor progress annually.

Travel

11. Travel represents the single biggest sustainability challenge to REF. The Charity is committed to offsetting its carbon footprint from its international travel. The Charity will seek ways to mitigate or offset emissions arising from internal travel within Nepal whether by air or road. The CEO will report to the Board of Trustees annually on initiatives to reduce all aspects of the Charity's carbon footprint.

Environmental Policy

Pollution And Waste

12. The Ridley Eye Foundation will incrementally mitigate its pollution and waste profile both in the UK and Nepal. The CEO will report to the Board of Trustees annually with audit results on the reduction of all environmental pollution (administrative, clinical, and logistical) and on non recyclable equipment waste. This latter includes disposable surgical equipment currently demanded by Covid protocols.

Appendix 1 - Suggested Annual Reporting Data

- A. Kwh electricity used.
- B. Kwh green electricity produced onsite.
- C. Percentage of electricity purchased from a green electricity supplier.
- D. KwH of gas used.
- E. Number of flights (if any) taken by staff etc.
- F. Any staff mileage / fuel paid for or used.
- G. The actual annual energy Carbon Footprint of the organisation – calculated from the above figures.
- H. The amount of un-recycled rubbish produced.
- I. The amount of recycled rubbish produced.
- J. Annual recycling rate calculated as a percentage from above two figures.
- K. Amount of waste successfully diverted from landfill by your charity shops if you have them.
- L. Total amount of photocopying paper used.
- M. Percentage of paper and publications that were printed on recycled paper during the year.
- N. Total number of litres of water consumed.
- O. If meals are provided : Amount of food sourced from local sustainable sources or from own grounds and percentage of vegetarian meals served.
- P. Any other relevant environmental information including progress on implementing eco-audit recommendations and successes.

Green Purchasing Policy

The Ridley Eye Foundation and subsidiaries commits itself to drawing up a green purchasing policy that requires staff to judge any purchasing decisions on the basis of a green purchasing hierarchy:

Reduce: REF will firstly question whether a purchase is strictly necessary and if it is, whether the amounts required could be reduced.

Re-use: Secondly it will seek to buy re-used items in preference to new items where practical.

Recycle: If new items have to be purchased, will seek whether there is a feasible option of buying products made locally, from recycled materials or a more energy efficient model.

The Ridley Eye Foundation and its subsidiaries will only buy sustainable wood and fish products with FSC (forest stewardship council) or MSC (Marine stewardship council) certification. Where this is not possible for any overseas operations REF will seek to provide the most environmentally friendly option even at an increased price.

Review

This policy, including the green purchasing policy shall be reviewed annually upon its adoption by the Board of Trustees.

