

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY V.1.1

APPEER COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY (CIC)

Policy statement

Appeer CIC recognises the link between climate change, environmental crises, and the risks of homelessness, disease, food and water shortages, and poverty that threaten millions of people worldwide. It also acknowledges the significant damage being inflicted on our natural ecosystems. As a result, Appeer CIC accepts its responsibility to reduce its carbon footprint and overall environmental impact and is committed to operating in an environmentally responsible manner.

Purpose

This environmental policy indicates our organisational commitment to addressing environmental issues within Appeer CIC and through the services we deliver. This document outlines what Appeer CIC will do to identify its environmental impact, how we will adapt to reduce it, and the responsibilities of all team members in this space.

Scope

This policy is applicable to all employees and volunteers and will be shared with suppliers, potential partners, and consultants whenever appropriate to demonstrate our commitment to environmental action and compliance with The Environmental Act 2021 as well as national and local environmental impact reduction strategies and plans.

Identifying our environmental impact

Appeer CIC is dedicated to continuous improvement in our efforts to be an environmentally friendly organisation, working with all employees to assess our overall impact and help us reduce our environmental footprint.

As part of this commitment we will;

- Conduct annual environmental audits to determine how we can further improve, or mitigate our impact.
- Conduct individual impact assessments when planning for new projects and activities
- Comply with legislation and local policy to ensure best practice
- Continuously review and monitor practice
- Report our environmental impact annually to the board of directors and publish where appropriate
- Review and update our Environmental Policy no later than 12 months from the date of publish

Our approach to waste management

Appeer CIC is committed to effective waste management and responsible resource use, aiming to minimise waste in all our organisational practices and activities. Each of our programmes are encouraged to follow the principles of the 4 R's with in planning and delivery of activities in the following ways:

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover

- Limit the amount of waste created and choosing durable products over single-use items wherever possible.
- Reducing paper use and printing by utilising digital resources and communications.
- Shopping for second-hand items.
- Repurposing existing equipment where possible.
- Turn waste products into new items, such as paper, glass, plastics, and metals.

Our approach to reducing carbon emissions:

At Appear CIC, we are passionately committed to driving a responsible transition to net zero, actively reducing the environmental impact of our operations and services. Our current approach to carbon reduction ensures that we are responsible with the space that we occupy, and that we minimise the use of transport where appropriate and do this in the following ways:

- Providing local services, which are accessible in the communities they serve.
- Employees work flexibly through a hybrid working model.
- Use of venues necessity for delivery purposes.
- Utilise existing community assets.
- Provide video conferences and remote working where appropriate.
- Choose renewable energy where possible.

Suppliers and procurements

We understand that we are responsible for ensuring that we partner with organisations and businesses that share goals to reduce environmental impact and will request that potential partners are able to demonstrate this by;

- Sharing environmental policies or describe planned actions if a formal policy is not in place when entering into any contract or agreement through our due diligence processes.
- Work with us to reduce the impacts of the goods and services purchased from them wherever possible.

We understand that while we may not be able to reject suppliers based solely on their sustainability credentials, asking questions helps raise awareness of this important issue. Through our engagement with suppliers, we aim to identify those whose values align with ours. We will also publicly express our preference for working with organizations that strive to minimize their environmental impact whenever possible.

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