EIA UK Environmental Policy

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Introduction

EIA UK recognises that its activities have effects on the environment and the climate. This Environmental Policy has been produced to affirm EIA UK's commitment to environmental and climate issues and, in line with our mission, to demonstrate our intention to address those issues through continued improvement in our own organisation's environmental practices.

Our mission

Our mission is to defend the natural world from environmental crime and abuse by:

- Exposing environmental and climate destruction and loss of biodiversity through uncompromising and innovative investigations

- Using this evidence and research to uncover environmental and climate crimes and abuses and expose those responsible

- Campaigning for protection of the environment and climate through better enforcement of law, progressive policymaking and changes in consumer behaviour

- Developing effective partnerships and sharing skills and expertise.

Environmental Policy Statement

The organisation strives to attain the highest available environmental standards in all areas of its operations. EIA UK Trustees and staff are committed to incorporating sustainability into our core business operations through internal and external efforts. EIA UK commits to reducing our carbon footprint wherever possible. Specifically, we shall adopt the following policies and practices:

1. Conserve energy, water and natural resources.

2. Commit to only purchasing environmentally preferable products.

3. Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

4. Promote environmental awareness.

5. Commit to minimising greenhouse gas emissions from staff travel and digital activities.

1. Conserve energy, water and natural resources.

- Aim to minimise the use of all materials, supplies and energies.

- Aim to incorporate energy saving technologies when purchasing and replacing office equipment.

- Use Energy Star or EU Energy label minimum A-rated appliances and office equipment.

- Where feasible and within our control, strive to improve the energy efficiency of lighting, power, heating, cooling and ventilation systems.

- Promote the use of natural lighting and turn off lighting and appliances when not in use. Use only LED lighting.

- Use water efficient toilets, taps and drought tolerant plants in the office.

- Minimise waste production in all areas of the organisation and aim for waste free processes.

- Reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and paper use by reducing print runs for all campaign reports, communications and fundraising materials to the strict minimum required. Share reports, briefings and other materials electronically.

- Avoid printing working documents in-house, encourage scanning and digital (rather than physical) storage.

2. **Commit to only purchasing environmentally preferable products and services.**

- Critically analyse the need for all purchases and reduce consumption where possible. Where not possible, conduct adequate research into sourcing the most environmentally and ethically sound products (the Operations department are signed up to Ethical Consumer https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/ to research purchasing options).

- Give preference, where practicable, to those products and services that cause the least harm to the environment (Ecotricity is our current energy provider https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/).

- Aim to include environmental and ethical considerations in our pension fund investment decisions where appropriate and continue monitoring our pension fund provider's commitment to net zero https://www.aviva.co.uk/aviva-edit/in-the-news-articles/net-zero-by-2040/ (Aviva's commitment is approved by the campaign Make My Money Matter, which we have joined as an organisation. https://makemymoneymatter.co.uk/charter/)

- Limit, to the extent possible, financial transactions and dealings with unethical banks (our bank, The Co-operative Bank, is the only UK high street bank with a customer-led Ethical Policy which is incorporated into the Bank's Articles of Association)

- Continue to use 100% recycled paper for all unavoidable printing in-house and printing of campaign reports, communications and fundraising materials (as opposed to using paper made from sustainable pulp, an option which is not supported by our Forest campaign team).

- Where feasible, purchase recycled content office furniture and supplies, office & toilet paper with 100% recycled content as well as tree free paper.

- Purchase products with the least packaging (no plastic, polystyrene, aerosol packaging). Commit to a plastic-free pledge to eliminate the use of single-use plastic while also avoiding harmful single use material substitutions.

- Purchase, where feasible, sustainable products for use in the organisation's operations, i.e. recycled, plastic free, tree free or low environmental impact products and energy from renewable sources.

- Avoid the use of toxic materials in the office to protect employee health and the environment (such as VOC paints, markers and air fresheners).

- Choose 'green seal' certified cleaning products.

- Source sustainable and equitably produced tea and coffee

- Choose environmentally friendlier energy efficient and HFC-free heating and cooling equipment where possible. Explore the potential for reducing the need for cooling and heating.

- Source catering that avoids single use plastics and products containing palm oil and unsustainable seafood.

- Source meat-free internal catering options.

3. **Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle**

- Reduce unnecessary waste generation and where possible source refillable, reusable or low-impact products, particularly cleaning products.

- Only use recyclable and recycled materials wherever practicable.

- Develop efficient waste management and recycling procedures throughout the organisation, including for electronic equipment.

- Reduce the waste generated by donating reusable office items (appliances, electronic equipment, furniture) to other charitable organisations or homeless shelters or for upcycling.

- Only purchase rechargeable batteries, remanufactured and refillable toner cartridges.

- Appropriately recycle or dispose of electronic equipment at end-of-life.

4. **Promote environmental awareness**

- Encourage similar environmental standards from any partners involved in our work.

- Lead by example and publicise our commitment and environmental position with supporters.

- At staff inductions and in staff newsletters discuss the various environmental practices we exercise and remind staff of what is required of employees to keep up with these practices at work, including avoiding single use plastic, choosing emissions free/reduced emissions transport options, promote the use of refillable bottles, canvas bags and reusable to-go containers.

- Assess the environmental impact of all our operations on a continual basis. Where possible, host only zero waste events i.e. ensuring that no waste is generated during EIA UK meetings or supporters' events.

- Environmental stewardship:

  o through the course of our campaigning work, we shall continue to promote best practice to businesses and key decision makers.

  o through our campaigning, we shall continue to develop solutions to environmental problems and support the development of EU and UK public policies.

5. **Commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from staff travel and digital activities**

Transport is our greatest source of greenhouse gas emissions as an organisation. Much of our campaigning work requires international travel or Information Communications Technology to attend meetings, conferences, webinars, engage with local civil society organisations and undertake field work to ground-truth our research.

a. **Commuting**

- Adopt an environmentally sound transport strategy encouraging employees to consider alternatives to in-person meetings where appropriate and offer home-working options whenever possible in line with EIA's home-working policy.

- Aim to offer cycling to work by joining incentive schemes such as Cycle to Work https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycle-to-work-scheme-implementation-guidance

b. Digital activity

- Monitor and aim to reduce our digital carbon footprint as a result of increasing our use of cloud services and remote working.

- Strive to reduce our digital carbon footprint online.

c. International travel

- Reduce international travel where possible by exploring all alternatives (aim to conduct meetings online/by phone where possible, reduce the number of staff at international conferences to the minimum necessary.)

- Where feasible, opt for train travel (within the UK and to all destinations served by Eurostar and the extended European rail network for UK based staff) and avoid short-haul air travel.

- Consider the environmental costs ahead of financial costs e.g. book direct trips where possible even if more expensive and inform donors about our travel policy when preparing and reporting on budgets.

- Conduct a climate audit with the aim of setting an emissions baseline and future emissions reduction targets and timelines.

- Maintain database of all travel undertaken by staff and the associated emissions to feed into audit process (as part of our current agreement with **Peregrine Risk Management** which includes a Climate Impact Tool to calculate emissions from travel).