



Environment

This statement lays out Guide Dogs' commitment to continuous improvement in reducing our environmental impact and incorporating sustainable ways of working throughout the organisation. We aim to do this in the most cost-effective manner ensuring that all funds are utilised for Guide Dogs core objectives. We encourage environmental responsibility amongst our staff and volunteers and as an organisation comply with relevant legislation as a minimum level of performance.

The theme at Guide Dogs is that sustainability does not have to be complicated or costly but just takes a different way of thinking about everything we do. Working in a sustainable way complements our mission and makes the most efficient use of funds. Through improving our practises in waste and energy management, we are reducing our carbon footprint and making financial savings wherever possible.

All Guide Dogs' staff and volunteers are encouraged to work in a sustainable way and have an understanding of the issues referred to in this statement.

Buildings

We are committed to managing our properties, equipment materials and transport in a sustainable way. We aim to make the right choices in the way we work, to minimise our impact on the environment. If financially and environmentally beneficial, we will also invest in efficiency improvements and renewable technologies.

Travel

We monitor our travel, produce regular reports and have a program in place to reduce emission levels in our Guide Dogs fleet. Due to the nature of our service provision we have a high annual mileage. To reduce our travel, we encourage the use of video and teleconferencing and have developed online educational resources and training modules that can be used on a distance learning basis.

Energy

We actively manage our carbon emissions resulting from the energy we use in our buildings and the fuel we use for transport. We comply with all legal environmental requirements applicable to Guide Dogs and ensure that adequate measures are in place to prevent pollution. We are fully compliant with the government's energy saving opportunities scheme ESOS.

As an organisation we practise simple, sensible, cost effective energy-saving measures with staff and volunteers involved in supporting energy reduction targets.

Procurement

We engage with our suppliers on sustainability issues and where possible and affordable, aim to purchase goods and services that have been produced and delivered with minimum impact on the environment and with due regard to the various social issues.

Waste

We operate a waste reduction, reuse and recycle programme to minimise volumes sent to landfill and increase the proportion that is recycled. We actively engage with staff and encourage them to get involved with waste and recycling initiatives. Our confidential, hygiene, hazardous, electrical and IT waste is dealt with responsibly and in line with relevant legislation.

Community Engagement

As a leading charity, we have a responsibility to support the community around us. We share knowledge, experience and best practice with our staff, volunteers, suppliers, local businesses, other charities and are fully transparent when reporting our sustainability facts and figures.

Biodiversity

Where possible we take all necessary steps to conserve the biodiversity of our landscape and enhance the habitats of all wildlife on our estates.