



EASTERN ALLIANCE FOR SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT (EASST)

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1** Promoting sustainable development is a core element of EASST's mission as a charity and is a fundamental principle upon which it carries out its work.

EASST recognises the connection between climate change and sustainable development and the urgent threat this poses to current and future generations. EASST acknowledges its social responsibility as an organisation to proactively reduce its ecological footprint and commits to integrating environmentally sustainable practices into all its activities and operations.

- 1.2** The purpose of this policy is to:

- (a) Set out our responsibilities in observing and upholding our policy on environmental sustainability, both within the workplace and within EASST's programmes and operations;
- (b) Comply with all legal requirements and regulations applicable to our work;
- (c) Provide information and guidance to our employees and partners on how address environmental sustainability issues.

- 1.3** This policy applies directly to our trustees and to all individuals working within EASST as employees or agents.

- 1.4** This policy is supported by EASST's Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.

2. WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY?

Sustainable development is defined as "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." (Brundtland Commission, 1987).

At the current rate, the global population is consuming 70% more resources than what the earth is able to provide: and this rate is growing. This is causing major environmental issues ranging from water scarcity and air pollution to climate change, resource depletion, and species extinction. The impact of these issues includes greater poverty and inequality, conflict, poor levels of health and wellbeing, increased risk of natural and manmade disasters, and a loss of biodiversity amongst many more.

A strategic approach is needed at every level of society to reduce emissions and consume resources responsibly in order to sustainably reduce these risks and mitigate these impacts.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN THE WORKPLACE

EASST aims to lead by example in terms of environmental sustainability in the workplace. We achieve this through understanding our environmental impact, how it changes over time, and proactively taking action to reduce our ecological footprint via:

- Monitoring carbon emissions and resource usage on a continuing basis;
- Identifying areas for improvement, setting objectives and goals to maintain accountability;
- Developing and implementing an environmental sustainability action plan that ensures integration of actions within our day to day operations;
- Publicly reporting progress via the EASST Annual Report.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY WITHIN PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Ensuring environmental sustainability in the transport sector is at the core of EASST's mission. However, EASST also acknowledges the environmental impact of its project delivery and seeks to mitigate any risks through:

- Ensuring an environmental sustainability assessment is conducted as standard when planning projects;
- Proactively seeking out opportunities relevant to its work that make a positive environmental impact;
- Prioritising and choosing the most sustainable solutions whenever it is practical to do so;
- Not supporting projects or activities that will have a detrimental effect on the environment;
- Encouraging partners and other stakeholders to act in an environmentally responsible way wherever possible.

5. TRAINING & COMMUNICATION

5.1 Where necessary, EASST will seek to provide dedicated training to staff and partner organisations on environmental sustainability issues.

5.2 This policy forms a core element of EASST's organisational strategy and forms a central area of work.

5.3 Environmental sustainability goals and progress will be included as a standing item within the EASST Annual Report.

6. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POLICY

- 6.1 The Board of Trustees has overall responsibility for ensuring this policy complies with our legal and ethical obligations, and that all those under our control comply with it.
- 6.2 The Compliance Officer has primary and day-to-day responsibility for implementing this policy and for monitoring its use and effectiveness and dealing with any queries on its interpretation.

7. MONITORING & REVIEW

- 7.1 As part of its annual review process the Director will monitor the effectiveness and review the implementation of this policy, considering its suitability, adequacy and effectiveness. The Compliance Officer will carry out regular audits of our control systems and procedures to provide assurance that they are effective in detecting and dealing with gender parity and equal opportunities issues.
- 7.2 All employees are responsible for the success of this policy and should ensure they use it to disclose any suspected deviation.
- 7.3 This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and it may be amended at any time.

Last reviewed: 22nd September 2020

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

Working practices

- Enable all staff to work from home. EASST does not have an office building to maintain.
- Encourage and support staff to take environmentally sustainable decisions and actions in and out of the workplace.
- Establish induction procedures for new staff that include information on the charity's environmental practices.

Sustainable travel

- Minimise business travel wherever possible by building capacity of in-country teams and exploring new ways of delivering work and meeting remotely.
- Encourage use of sustainable transport options and car-sharing.
- Where the option is available, pay to offset carbon emissions of business travel.

Project delivery

- Encourage EASST partners, donors and other stakeholders to take action on environmental sustainability issues.
- Conduct an Environmental Sustainability Assessment as standard when planning projects
- Prioritise and choose the most sustainable solutions whenever it is practical to do so
- Not supporting projects or activities that will have a detrimental effect on the environment

Sustainable event organisation

- Prioritise and select eco-friendly venues/accommodation.
- Plan events in accessible locations where participants can use public transport.
- Limit the use of single use plastics in project delivery, and encourage partners to do the same.
- Opt for more vegetarian or vegan catering options, avoid red meat options, and make plans where possible to donate any left-over food to a food bank.

Ethical procurement

- Purchase environmentally sustainable products and services and develop sustainable supply chains by using suppliers that have environmental standards compatible with our own.