

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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1. DOCUMENT DATE AND REVIEW SCHEDULE

- 1.1 This document has been approved by the Audit and Risk Committee on 6th April 2022.
- 1.2 This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Executive Team, or when there are changes in legislation or as requested by a UNICEF UK governance committee, whichever is the sooner.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 The ownership and therefore responsibility for updating and approval of this policy is assigned to the Chief Financial Officer
- 2.2 The responsibility for ensuring compliance with this policy rests with all workers contracted, acting on behalf of, or employed by UNICEF UK.

3 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

- 3.1 The purpose of this Environmental Policy and any referenced accompanying guidance or policies, is to:
 - 3.1.1 Recognise UNICEF UK's environmental footprint
 - 3.1.2 Set out measures to meaningfully and impactfully reduce UNICEF UK's environmental footprint and use of finite natural resources
 - 3.1.3 Undertake necessary measures as an organisation to help secure a sustainable future for children.

4 GUIDANCE AND UNICEF INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

- 4.1 This Policy has been developed with due regard to the following laws and guidance
 - 4.1.1 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - 4.1.2 Sustainable Development Goals (2015 – 2030)
 - 4.1.3 Environment Act 2021
 - 4.1.4 Climate Change Act 2008

5 DEFINITIONS

- 5.1 The **natural environment** refers to the non-human-made surroundings and conditions within which all living and non-living things exist on earth.
- 5.2 A person's **physical environment** consists of the particular natural surroundings in which they live or operate
- 5.3 According to the UN definition, **Climate Change** refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, but since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels (like coal, oil and gas), which produces heat-trapping gases.
- 5.4 The **Climate Crisis** is a term increasingly used to describe the urgency of the threat presented by climate change and the deleterious impacts on human life

6 POLICY STATEMENTS

6.1 Introduction

The climate crisis is a child rights crisis. Climate change is affecting children's lives and is a direct threat to a child's ability to survive, grow, and thrive. It prevents their basic rights from being met and is an equity issue affecting the most vulnerable and marginalised.

6.2 Context

Action on the environment and climate change are integral to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly including the following:

- Article 2: All children should enjoy all the rights set out in the UNCRC without discrimination
- Article 6: Every child has the right to life; to survive and develop their full potential
- Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health, including clean water, healthy food and a clean environment

The right to a healthy environment has been formally recognised by the UN Human Rights Council, a body recognised and supported by UNICEF. The right of children to live in a safe, and sustainable climate and environment is one of four key areas within UNICEF's global Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025. UNICEF's vision is to ensure that every child and young person is protected from the worst impacts of a changing climate and degrading environment and is part of a movement where healing the planet, and social and economic development go hand in hand.

6.3 Our Aim

UNICEF is committed to cutting its own global environmental impact and has aligned its 2030 carbon reduction target to the 45 per cent reduction target (from 2016) set by the United Nations Secretary-General in September 2019¹ and to reach a net zero position by at least 2050.

Around the world, UNICEF is working with governments to help adapt, mitigate, and directly respond to the climate crisis. At UNICEF UK we make a direct contribution to this work through our UK based fundraising, advocacy, communications, and domestic programmes. However, we also need to recognise our own environmental footprint and do all we can to meaningfully reduce our environmental impact and use of finite natural resources. We are also committed to reduce our own environmental impact to help secure a sustainable future for children.

¹ Source: <https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2020-goal-area-4>;
<https://www.unicef.org/media/102241/file/Global-annual-results-report-2020-goal-area-4.pdf>

There are four main pillars of our environmental policy as follows:

Environmental:

Direct measures we are taking to reduce the organisations' environmental impact.

Procurement:

Positive engagement with suppliers and fundraising partners that are working to be more sustainable and committed to reducing their environmental impact.

Advocacy:

Influence the UK Governments and work closely with UNICEF to promote climatic sustainability and protect children's rights to grow up in a safe and clean environment .

Partnerships:

Work with UNICEF to fundraise for programmes that either reduce or create resilience against the effects of climate change.

7 OUR COMMITMENTS

7.1 Environmental:

7.1.1 Environmental Audit

We will:

- Carry out an environmental audit at least every three years to assess our impact and prioritise activities according to the severity and irreparability of impact on children and the environment, including those below (this will include a measurement of UUK's carbon footprint)
- Publish this audit, and the subsequent action plan on our we
- Set adequate and meaningful environmental targets annually and allocate sufficient resources to help achieve these. Through this process we anticipate we will expand our focus over time.
- Carry out an extensive annual review of the progress being made against the outcomes of the environmental audit and the annual targets. Publish such progress on our website from 2023.

7.1.2 Efficient Use of Water and Energy in our Workplace and Working Practices

We will:

- Minimise the amount of water and energy we consume through improvements in both efficiency and use. In line with this commitment UNICEF UK is subject to the requirements of the Energy Savings Opportunities Scheme Regulations (ESOS) and remains fully compliant with these laws

- Seek to use our leverage to influence the procurement of the energy used in our Stratford Office, which is currently procured from a supplier of low carbon energy².
- Procure energy efficient products and services where practicable and financially viable.
- Research and identify the most appropriately ambitious environmental management standard or certification in this area, and work towards achieving both this standard and subsequent certification. (e.g., ISO 14001 / ISO 50001, Scope)

7.1.3 Recycling/Minimising Waste

We will:

- Continue to ensure compliance with applicable waste law, such as the waste duty of care under Part II Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- Minimise waste by reducing our overall consumption of materials and resources, by adopting a waste management system that promotes a zero-to-landfill waste solution
- Maximise the reuse and recycling of materials (including office equipment) in all our activities, procuring sustainable sources wherever possible
- To support the achievement of the above we will evaluate and identify the volume of waste we currently produce and put in place a reduction target and means to tangibly achieve this.

7.1.4 Sustainable Transport, Travel and Events

We will:

- Develop and implement an integrated and sustainable approach to domestic travel and transport, encouraging the greater use of travel by foot, bicycle, and public transport, where feasible for the individual (e.g. by promoting UNICEF UK's cycle scheme)
- Ensure individuals to always consider the environmental impact of their travel and chose the most appropriate mode of transport
- Minimise, where appropriate, our travel to UNICEF offices globally, and where necessary explore alternative and/or more sustainable approaches, whilst ensuring we are meeting donor commitments
- Seek to encourage virtual visits from partners and donors to Unicef programmes
- Undertake environmental audit of UNICEF UK organised events, workshops and conferences, and investigate as we can best minimise our environmental footprint for events.
- To support the achievement of the above we will evaluate and identify our carbon footprint, and put in place a reduction target and means to tangibly achieve this.

² The energy for UNICEF UK's Stratford Office is currently locally sourced from the East London Energy Scheme and is low carbon energy produced with 30% less carbon emissions in comparison to that produced from traditional fossil fuels.

³ The UNICEF UK Stratford Office attained an "excellent rating in construction" under BREEAM

We will also report on our energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, for example under Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR).

7.1.5 Raising Awareness and Training Employees on Environmental Issue

We will:

- Ensure that all staff are given the opportunity to take an active role in the development and implementation of environmental initiatives
- Encourage all members of staff to improve their awareness of their environmental impact and become more environmentally responsible
- Ensure that all UNICEF UK employees, trustees, and volunteers are aware of UNICEF UK's environment policy

7.2 PROCUREMENT:

7.2.1 Working with Suppliers to Encourage High Environmental Standards

We will:

- Responsibly procure goods and services which are environmentally sustainable
- Work with our suppliers to minimise the environmental impact of our supply chains, including contractors
- Review UNICEF UK's pension and investments to ensure congruence with this policy; subject to approval by UNICEF colleagues representing the pension scheme.
- Work to strengthen the existing environmental stipulations within UNICEF UK's supplier code of conduct for all suppliers, and also within individual supplier contracts.

7.2.2 Working with Partners

We will:

- Develop improved screening of potential partners for adverse environmental impacts as part of our standard due diligence processes to ensure we do not contribute or benefit from environmental harms or contribute to greenwashing
- Learn from UNICEF globally, and our partners already engaged on this issue, to help develop environmental best practices

7.3 ADVOCACY

7.3.1 Working with UNICEF:

We will:

- Support UNICEF's progress with their environmental policies and agree to timely roll-out of complementary initiatives at UNICEF UK

- With UNICEF, advocate for Governments to develop and enhance policies that promote climate action and implement programmes that improve the resilience of social services for children.
- Engage with children and young people's efforts to mitigate challenges and increase resilience to climate change.
- Share and act on our supporters views on their concerns in relation to the environmental impact of the international development sector

7.4 PARTNERSHIPS:

7.4.1 Working with UNICEF and Partners

- With UNICEF, fundraise for programmes that reduce the effects of climate change and environmental degradation and/or support communities and children to be more climate resilient
- Create new programmes that reduce the effects of climate change and/or support communities to be more climate resilient
- Screen partners for adverse environmental impacts as part of our standard due diligence processes to ensure we do not contribute or benefit from environmental harms or contribute to green washing

8 GOVERNANCE

We will:

- Continue to report on UNICEF UK's environmental impact under the Companies Act 2006 in our annual report and financial statements
- Review this policy every three years with the Board of Trustees and on an annual basis by UNICEF UK's Executive Leadership to consider changes including legislation and best practice. This will be included in the responsibilities of a member of UNICEF UK's Executive Leadership
- Make this environmental policy available to all interested parties via our website
- Ensure that progress against the above commitments is reported on to all staff each year, and externally via our website from 2023 in line with our annual reporting timelines.
- Establish a dedicated cross organisational environmental group to monitor, champion and support the implementation of this policy
- Include and consult our Youth Advisory Board on policy recommendations and actions

9 ASSOCIATED UNICEF UK POLICIES

The following will be reviewed to ensure their congruence with the commitments above.

- UNICEF UK Pension Policy
- UNICEF UK Investments Policy
- UNICEF UK Procurement Policy
- UNICEF UK Screening Policy
- UNICEF UK Ethics Policy