
SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Help us all understand the commitments that our management and the Board have made regarding the sustainability of Reach Beyond UK's ministries at home and abroad.
- Clearly set out who is responsible for making sure what we do meets those commitments.
- Ensure our commitments to the principals of sustainability and their importance to the wellbeing of our fellow workers and those we serve are clear to the organisations with whom we work.

VALUE STATEMENT

We believe that God values His creation, which he deemed to be very good,¹ and that He has compassion for all that he has made,² including aspects of creation other than humanity.³ We have been given the unique responsibility to care for His world. From His first purpose for Adam, to tend the garden,⁴ to the instructions Jesus gave to His disciples, commanding them to preach the good news to all creation,⁵ God has demonstrated His concern for all He has brought into being. He has also warned us of the consequences of polluting the land He has given us.⁶ As followers of the way of Jesus Christ and servants of the Kingdom of God, we will endeavour to obey these commands.

We acknowledge the mutual dependency between humanity and the environment that we all share, and that environmental degradation is a major cause of poverty, disease and the displacement of people. As part of our desire to be the voice and hands of Jesus, we recognise that creation care is also an act of love towards our neighbours, an opportunity serve them and therefore an integral component of our ministry.

¹ Genesis 1:31

² Psalm 145:9

³ Genesis 9:9-10, Hosea 2:18

⁴ Genesis 2:15

⁵ Mark 15:16

⁶ Leviticus 18:28, Numbers 35:33-34

Sustainability has been defined in the United Nations Brundland Report (1987) as: “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.⁷ The report recognises that environmental issues cannot be addressed effectively without also considering social and economic factors. Therefore, we will commit to adopting practices that address all three dimensions of sustainability.

COMMITMENTS

Everything we do at Reach Beyond UK is impacted by the principles of sustainability. As such, this Policy applies to most of our activities, including:



Reach Beyond UK recognises the impact each of these areas has on our mission, the environment and the people we serve. Therefore, we have set clear commitments to minimise the impact:

- We commit to achieving carbon neutrality in compliance with our Carbon Neutrality Road Map.
- We commit to promoting efficient use of resources through the minimisation of waste, encouraging reduction in what we buy and re-using and recycling where possible.
- We commit to continual improvements through the setting of regular sustainability targets and monitoring our progress on these.

⁷ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf>

- We commit to encouraging awareness of sustainability amongst all those working for, or on behalf of, Reach Beyond UK.

Each key activity we perform should have a tailored Sustainability Plan and clear guidance showing how we should use it.

Each plan should include:

- The sustainability risks specific to the activity (for example, if it was a building plan, the risk to sustainability from poor disposal of construction waste).
- How we can reduce the likelihood and impact of the risks we have identified.
- How we will measure our success in tackling these risks.
- What opportunities we have for serving others through improving the sustainability of our practices.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Overall accountability for making sure the organisation complies with this Policy lies with the Chief Executive Officer.

Responsibility for developing and implementing the Carbon Neutrality Road Map lies with the Sustainability Champion.

Responsibility for co-ordinating and measuring sustainability across Reach Beyond UK lies with the Sustainability Champion.

Responsibility for developing local Sustainability Plans and making sure these are followed lies with individual managers of each aspect of Reach Beyond UK's mission (for example, Millside Centre, Café, Head Office, Mobilisation, etc.).

We are all responsible for making sure we understand the Sustainability Policy along with any specific Sustainability Plans and related standards or procedures that may apply to our activities.

REFLECTING ON PERFORMANCE

Reach Beyond UK should continually reflect upon the sustainability of its activities. To make sure that happens, we will:

- Create a programme of focused assessments, looking at the sustainability of specific aspects of the way we work.
- Actively seek ideas and insights from our fellow workers and supporters.
- Compare our performance against good practice standards and new ideas from outside Reach Beyond UK.
- Prayerfully seek guidance and discernment.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

If we don't live up to the commitments we have set ourselves, we must make sure we learn from our mistakes and put things right. The Sustainability Champion will submit a report outlining progress and performance to each board meeting. They will also suggest any improvements necessary to ensure we can meet our commitments.

The annual reports produced by Reach Beyond UK will include a section on its performance against our commitments. This will be an honest and credible summary that should benefit everyone interested in the charity. It will include:

- A brief review of our sustainability policies, plans and responsibilities.
- A clear statement regarding each Reach Beyond UK's main sustainability impacts.
- The targets we have set ourselves and progress made to achieving these targets.
- Review of targets and addition of new ones if needed.
- Link to finance report for the financial aspects of sustainability.

DECISION MAKING

All important proposals considered by the management and Board of Reach Beyond UK should take sustainability into account. A short exercise called a Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) should be performed to assist these considerations. The Sustainability Champion should help you with this process.

CARBON OFF-SETTING

In theory, a 'carbon offset' is a method of reducing emissions of carbon dioxide (or other 'greenhouse gases'), made to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. Carbon offset (or emission trading) schemes are operated by a range of providers. They are widely used by airlines, for example. However, off-setting is a poor substitute for not producing the emissions in the first place. So, they should only be used as a temporary measure if no other workable solution is available.

Many offset schemes provide little or no overall benefits to carbon emission reduction. Some have been shown to actually increase carbon emissions (for example, by encouraging guilt-free air travel). Some are run by profit-making organisations or involve high set-up and running costs, which reduce their value. If you want to use a carbon offset scheme you must get Reach Beyond UK's Sustainability Champion to have a look at it as well. Any carbon offset payments are still subject to the normal rules that control spending.

APPLICABLE STANDARDS

The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) publishes a range of good practice standards and guidelines that can help us improve our performance. Those related to sustainability include:

ISO 14000 Environmental Management.⁸ This provides a framework for managing our environmental impact. Although Reach Beyond has no formal requirement to gain formal certification against this standard, it can be used as a guideline to manage and measure our actions. This includes the development and maintenance of the Sustainability Policy itself.

ISO 26000 Guidance on Social Responsibility.⁹ This provides guidance to those organisations that recognise that respect for society and environment is a critically important. The application of ISO 26000 is increasingly seen as a good way of assessing an organisation's commitment to sustainability, especially it's social dimension.

PAS 2060 Carbon Neutrality Specification.¹⁰

Individual Sustainability Plans may also apply recognised good-practice standards relevant to the activities being performed (for example, Fairtrade in relation to the purchasing of food and drink or BREEAM for building management).

OTHER POLICIES, STANDARDS & PROCEDURES

The Sustainability Policy should be considered alongside the following policies, standards and procedures of Reach Beyond UK:

- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Expenses Policy
- Investment Policy
- Short Term Ministry Teams Policy (pending)
- Business Equipment Purchase Policy (pending)
- Risk Register
- Sustainability Assessment and Reporting Standard
- Sustainability Impact Assessment Procedure

POLICY REVIEW

This Sustainability Policy replaces the Environmental Policy adopted by Reach Beyond UK in 2012.

⁸ <https://www.iso.org/iso-14001-environmental-management.html>

⁹ <https://www.iso.org/iso-26000-social-responsibility.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/pas-2060-carbon-neutrality/>

This Policy should be reviewed each year. Our understanding of the risks associated with climate change and other environmental issues is developing all the time and what we do should reflect best practice.

The Sustainability Champion will canvass opinions and propose changes to the Policy. Changes shall be subject to approval by the Chief Executive Officer and the Board.

VERSION CONTROL

Version	Content	Status	Date
0.1	First draft of Policy.	Initial Draft	16 th November 2021
0.2	Second draft of Policy	Second Draft	8 th February 2022
1.0	Approved version	Approved	11 th May 2022