

Version	1.0	Approved by	Derryck Klarkowski
		Approved date	1 March 2019
Responsible person	Executive Officer	Review date	30 January 2020

This Sustainability Policy aims to integrate sustainability into our operations, and to establish and promote sound environmental practices. We will work together to understand and improve sustainability in our day-to-day operations and our community. We will work to reduce our environmental impact in order to produce a clean, safe and healthy environment and preserve resources for future generations.

1. Our Sustainability Goals:

- To conserve resources, by avoiding and minimising landfill waste and increasing the amount of material that is reused, recycled and composted.
- To reduce our energy use in our operations and transport through smarter practices and greater efficiency and working towards using renewable energy sources.
- To minimise the consumption of mains water through water efficiency and working towards alternative water sources.
- To implement procedures to reduce our environmental impact and educate our volunteers to make environmentally friendly choices.
- To develop an environmentally conscious culture at We Care Connect and in our surrounding community, with partners and supporters who share our values and goals.
- To monitor and continually improve our environmental performance.

2. Policy Implementation

Our organisation will implement a hands-on approach to environmental sustainability, through the following actions in each key area.

Waste

- Avoid and minimise landfill waste through the re-use, recycling and upcycling of donated items.
- Avoid excess packaging of items to donate, and re-use packaging wherever possible e.g. plastic packaging from new car restraints to cover other items.
- Maintain procedures for re-using, recycling and responsible disposal of operational waste, (e.g. recycling batteries, printer cartridges, pram tyres and rubber inner tubes,

¹ This document is directly based with permission on the St Kilda Mums Sustainability Policy 2.4'

glass bottles, tin cans, polystyrene, soft plastics and cardboard. Whenever feasible Fabric bags and unsuitable clothing are recycled through third parties.)

Energy

- Use lighting, appliances and equipment as energy-efficiently as possible.
- Use lighting, heating and cooling carefully (e.g. not lighting spaces where work is not being undertaken).

Water

- Use mains water efficiently in the washing of donated items and clothing.
- Investigate alternative water sources (e.g. harvesting rainwater in tanks for flushing toilets, washing donated items).

Green Purchasing and Procurement

- Avoid new purchases where items can be donated or re-used.
- Avoid paper use in operations, use donated or recycled paper when required, and purchase environmentally friendly paper alternatives for items like toilet paper, hand towels, tissues and serviettes.
- Use cleaning products that avoid harmful environmental impact.

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed every year as part of our review cycle.
- Volunteer, Board and community feedback will be sought to review this policy.

3. Acknowledgements

This document is directly based with permission on the St Kilda Mums Sustainability Policy 2.4', drafted by Jessica Macpherson, approval date 12 January 2018

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