



Policy & Procedures Climate and environment

Introduction

The Culture Health & Wellbeing Alliance (CHWA) believes that our health and wellbeing are built on our capacity to be creative and to feel invested in and valued by our culture. The Alliance strives to support and develop activities and policies to build a society in which we are all able to access our creativity and build diverse, rich cultures together.

CHWA recognises that climate change and environmental protection are the most urgent themes of our time and this Environmental Policy is a statement of our commitment to help reduce the impact of our activities on the environment, and to creating positive impact where possible. Climate change and environmental degradation are indivisible from our health and wellbeing. Creative and cultural practices can address and shift our capacity to address damaging social and political practices, in support of our health and wellbeing.

Policy Aims

CHWA will ensure

1. that the environmental impacts of its activities are considered when planning its activities and minimised, and
2. that our organisation supports efforts to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation
3. that it models and encourages best practice in relation to the above amongst its membership.

CHWA's steps to minimise environmental impact

Office arrangements

All CHWA employees work from their own homes. These are currently at some distance from each other (Yorkshire, Edinburgh, and the South West).

The bulk of the business of the organisation can be conducted via phone, online meetings, email and other digital services.

The Director and Coordinator have undertaken to meet occasionally in person.

CHWA employees and Directors commit to using as little energy as possible for heating, lighting and using work equipment. We also commit to a paperless office and encourage all stakeholders to do the same.

Meetings and events

CHWA is responsible for convening meetings of stakeholders on a regular basis. Each stakeholder group (for example, regional champions or Strategic Alliance Members) will meet a maximum of once annually in person to minimise travel. The remaining meetings will be conducted online.

Travel

Staff members travel by public transport by default. Occasionally the Coordinator travels by car, e.g. to carry equipment for events.

Staff are committed to undertaking no more than 1 long-haul return-flight per annum or 2 short-haul return-flights per member of staff for work. Where it is possible to travel by train and/or bus rather than fly, staff will take this option even if it requires longer travel time.

Stakeholders are encouraged to travel by public transport to group meetings where possible, and reimbursed for this. We recognise that public transport is not readily available in all parts of the country and that it may not be accessible for all stakeholders.

Paper

CHWA will minimise the use of paper at meetings and events, printing 2/3 copies of papers (on recycled paper) for those who may not be able to access information on laptops/tablets. We encourage attendees to print only what they need to bring with them.

When held in person our annual conference is paperless barring a few information sheets printed for the space for those who can't access information digitally.

Employees may print business cards. CHWA information is otherwise held and distributed online. CHWA does not produce leaflets. We are aware, however, that people without regular access to computers/smartphones cannot access the information we provide. This may lead to a form of discrimination (see CHWA's [Equality, Representation & Diversity Policy](#)). We will assess the balance between on and offline provision annually when this policy is reviewed.

Online

CHWA uses an online widget to monitor the energy use of its website. We commit to following guidance currently being developed by Fast Familiar to minimise energy used in our online presence.

Meetings

Where face-to-face meetings are held, the bulk are held in locations with train and/or bus stations. Members and others are invited to use public transport where possible and share car transport (taxis and lifts), a process that CHWA helps facilitate.

Food and drink

Staff and Directors use re-usable coffee flasks/cups where possible. CHWA supports local food providers where possible, and caters with vegetarian food only at all events, with vegan options available.

Catering in most venues is generous and there is often wastage which can be compounded if delegates are unable to attend and fail to let us know in time. We ask caterers to provide options for cutlery, containers and crockery that has the least environmental impact. For example this may mean crockery that can be washed rather than recyclable coffee cups. The type of food provided is not always within our control but where it is, we choose smaller, artisan caterers over the corporate caterers.

Recycling

We recycle all materials used by CHWA where possible, and choose recyclable or biodegradable materials where possible.

CHWA's steps to encourage best practice in the sector

- CHWA has declared a climate emergency
- CHWA is engaged in the Julie's Bicycle Accelerator programme with a view to implementing ideas across its own organisation and the wider sector
- Each month the CHWA bulletin features at least one article relating to climate change/ environmental work
- In 2020 we established an annual CHWA Climate Award, recognising projects or programmes connecting climate change, health and culture/creativity.

Review and Maintenance of Policy

The Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance CIC undertakes to review this policy, its implementation and effectiveness annually. The views of all employees and volunteers shall be sought where necessary and reflected in the review process.

Any new legislation or developments in existing legislation will be considered as and when required and the policy will be updated to reflect these developments.

This policy was approved and agreed by the Board of Directors on the date shown below.

Signed  DocuSigned by:
Rosie Dow
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Name (please print): Rosie Dow

Position: Director, Culture, Health and wellbeing Alliance

Date: 14 July 2021

Review dates: July 2022 | July 2023 | annually thereafter

Organisation name: Culture, Health & Wellbeing Alliance CIC

Company Number: 12359172