

# BE ME PROJECT

identity ~ truth ~ purpose

## Environmental Policy

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Author: Laura Parker/Sarah La Trobe

Signed : Alison Thomas,



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Be Me Project acknowledges the deepening climate and environmental crisis that is affecting and threatening millions of lives and livelihoods around the world and causing irreversible damage to our natural ecosystems. Therefore, we recognise our responsibility to reduce our carbon and environmental footprint and we formally commit to being an environmentally-responsible charity. To take this forward, the staff management (CEO and Head of Operations and Development) are mandated to take executive responsibility for implementing this commitment. An annual report will be made at Trustees meeting with information on our actions.

We recognise that as a charity our environmental impact is not currently high, but we will do all we can to ensure it does not rise and also take concrete action to reduce it.

Our assessment of our current situation and policy intention:

- Transportation use is relatively low. We encourage course leaders to walk wherever possible and staff to walk/cycle to work.
- Energy use in HO is reasonably low and has been reduced. We are using a thermostatic control in the office, and have a policy of switching off lights, photocopier and computers at the end of each working day.
- Paper consumption is moderate and monitored. A separate bin is used for paper

recycling.

- Course resources are purchased responsibly with a review for the most sustainable version of what we need, balanced against cost and quality.
- We take a 'reduce, reuse and recycle' approach to procuring and disposing of office furniture and technology.
- Induction procedures include reading the environment policy, and for those in office, a wider explanation of how to ensure we are as sustainable as possible.
- Be Me will observe existing environmental legislation as a minimum standard and seek to out-perform current legislative requirements where practical.

Going forward, the following actions will be taken to ensure we are as environmentally conscious and sustainable as possible:

- All staff contracts will include a clause stating that staff will be expected to help the organisation in carrying out its aim of being an environmentally-responsible organisation, in how they carry out their day-to-day duties.
- Be Me will ask current and future significant suppliers for their environmental policies and indicate that that this is an important criteria in our choice of supplier
- We will further minimise our waste across all areas of our work (HO, courses and events) through:
  - establishing a mixed recycling bin in the office for cans, plastics and glass
  - where possible, ensuring any unused resources from courses and events are freecycled or taken to a recycling centre rather than landfilled

We have agreed to appoint Sarah Latrobe as our environmental champion to ensure the actions above.