Care Alliance Ireland

'Guiding support for family carers'

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Background

- We recognise the threat of global warming to our national and international community for both present and future generations and the robust evidence behind it. We recognise the substantial evidence to support the effect of humankind's impact on the Earth's environment.[1]
- We acknowledge that we are in a position of privilege in living in a developed economy and environment which is more likely to be largely unaffected by the extreme weather events which threaten the livelihoods of millions of impoverished communities around the world.
- We acknowledge the government policy on reducing our carbon emissions by 51% by 2030.[2]
- We seek to adopt policies and practices that will minimise our organisation's carbon footprint.
- We recognise the heavy carbon footprint air travel emissions in particular has on climate change.
- We are cognisant that some policies may be challenging for some organisations in the voluntary and community sector to implement, but we believe it best practice to advocate for progressive sustainable environmental policies wherever possible.
- Recent advances in the cost and quality of ICT (for example Zoom, cloud computing, high speed broadband, translation software) are facilitating greater levels of high-quality collaboration and knowledge exchange between colleagues internally and externally both nationally and internationally.
- Supporting the well-being of family carers and those they care for cannot be viewed in isolation to the threat of well-being of the wider community and to our natural environment.

We will seek to implement the following policies during the lifetime of our current Strategic Plan;

I. Being residents in the Carmichael Centre, we will seek to support the centres existing environmental sustainability policy. https://www.carmichaelireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/11/Carmichael-Environmental-Policy-June-2017.pdf
II. Where economically comparable (i.e.: allowing for the cost of staff/volunteer time and direct transport costs) staff and volunteers will be asked to make use of public transport where available and or walk or cycle where practicable.
III. We will facilitate measures that support staffs use of public transport to and from work and during work (i.e. Bike to work scheme, Tax-saver Commuter Ticket Scheme, Dublin Bikes)
IV. We will aim to live stream events that we organise.

[1] Masson-Delmotte et al., 'IPCC, 2018: Summary for Policymakers - Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C above Pre-Industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Gas Emission Pathways, in the Context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Efforts to Eradicate Poverty', 2018, https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_SPM_version_report_HR.pdf.

[2] Climate Action Plan 2025 See https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-climate-energy-and-the-environment/publications/climate-action-plan-2025/ Accessed July 29th 2025.

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Charity Registration No 20048303
CHY No 14644

Directors; R. Conboy, S Donnelly, D Elen Gebremedhin, M MacDonagh, L O'Philbin, C E Pocknell, A Spillane, E Teague

V. We will be the leader in online family carer support initiatives in Ireland and in doing so reduce the carbon footprint of family carers supports and interventions.

VI. We will take advantage of tools and guides which are currently available to assist in developing better sustainable practices (e.g. sustainabletoolkit.ie, 'Living Better Using Less: Toolkit for community and voluntary organisations') (example https://climatetoolkit4business.gov.ie/).

VII. Deliver induction procedures for new staff and volunteers that will include information on the charity's environmental practices.

VIII. We will seek to influence the guidelines and practice of current and future funding streams (in particular the Erasmus Plus scheme that currently involves significant international air travel) such that the carbon footprint of such projects is reduced.

IX. We will seek to participate in Erasmus projects that involve a minimal level of international travel and specifically aviation travel.

X. Our goal will be that each staff member and board member take no more than one return flight per year on Care Alliance Ireland business. We will use carbon offsetting through http://www.greensodireland.ie/ in any flights taken through an accredited scheme.

XI. When we are arranging catering, we will order vegetarian options – unless participants explicitly request a meat-based option. Vegan options will also be accommodated. The use of single use delph will be discouraged.

XII. We will seek to continue to reduce our paper usage and increase use of recycled plastic.

XIII. We will review and seek to minimise the carbon footprint of carers week merchandise and gift items that we provide to members of the online family carer support project.

XIV. We will encourage our member organisations to adopt policies that reduce their carbon footprint.

XV. Formal working from home options will be further explored

XVI. We will report on our progress annually in our director's report.

XVII. This policy will be placed prominently on our website.

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