



Environmental Policy

Approved by the Board of Trustees: April 2026

Review By: April 2028

Chair signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a yellow background, enclosed in a thin black border. The signature appears to be "Paul P..." followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Wealden Volunteering – Environmental Policy

1. Purpose of This Policy

Wealden Volunteering recognises that, although we are a small charity, our activities have an environmental impact. This policy sets out our commitment to reducing that impact in a way that is proportionate, achievable, and aligned with our charitable objectives of supporting volunteering within our local communities.

2. Our Commitment

Wealden Volunteering will:

- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation applicable to a small UK charity.
- Seek practical, low-cost ways to reduce waste, conserve energy, and operate sustainably.
- Consider environmental impact when making decisions about purchasing, travel, events, and office operations.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All staff (paid and volunteer)
- Trustees
- Any contractors or partners working with or on behalf of the charity

4. Practical Actions We Will Take

4.1 Office and Resource Use

We will:

- Reduce paper use wherever possible and use digital alternatives.

- Reuse and recycle materials (paper, ink cartridges, office supplies) where facilities exist.
- Choose environmentally responsible products when practical and affordable.
- Turn off lights, equipment, and heating when not needed.

4.2 Travel

Because we serve a rural area, some travel is unavoidable. We will:

- Encourage walking, cycling, car sharing, or public transport where practical.
- Use online meetings to reduce unnecessary travel where possible.
- Plan journeys efficiently to minimise mileage.

4.3 Events and Volunteer Activities

We will:

- Minimise the use of single-use items such as disposable cups and plastic packaging.
- Promote environmentally aware practices within volunteer activities.

4.4 Purchasing

When buying goods or services, we will consider:

- Durability and ability to repair items
- Minimal packaging
- Local suppliers, where practical, to reduce travel impact
- Whether environmentally certified options are available at a reasonable cost

5. Working With Volunteers, Partners, and the Community

Wealden Volunteering will:

- Share simple guidance with volunteers on reducing environmental impact.
- Encourage partner organisations to adopt similar low-impact practices where appropriate.

6. Monitoring and Review

Due to our size, environmental monitoring will be simple and proportionate.

We will:

- Inform the Board of Trustees of any practical improvements made.
- Include environmental considerations in trustee decision-making.
- Review this policy every 2 years to ensure it remains realistic and relevant.

7. Responsibility

- **Trustees** hold overall responsibility for this policy.
- **Staff and volunteers** are expected to follow it in their day-to-day work.