

ORG – 057 v.2

Business Operations

# Environmental Sustainability Policy

**Global**

Policy Owner: Business Operations Executive Director

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## 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Fred Hollows Foundation (**The Foundation**) recognises the importance of environmental sustainability and climate change and is committed to reducing potential negative impacts on the environment and to developing resilience to the impacts of climate change across its operations and programs in its work to end avoidable blindness.
- 1.2 This Policy is not intended to be an exhaustive statement of The Foundation's processes regarding environmental issues but is intended to guide the approach of The Foundation through the principles and commitments set out below.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

**Disclosure** refers to how The Foundation will publicly report on its progress in implementing the commitments under this policy, including through the Annual Report.

**Due Diligence** is a process to identify potential social, environmental and economic gaps of an organisation's activities that may have adverse impacts on how they operate, with the aim to address the issues presenting the highest level of risk.

**Implementing Partner** means an organisation engaged by The Foundation to work with us in furthering our fundamental goals of ending avoidable blindness.

**Personnel** means a person who carries out work in any capacity for The Foundation which includes paid employees, contractors, sub-contractors, consultants, work experience students or volunteers.

**Supplier** means an organisation or sole trader engaged by the Foundation to supply goods and/or services in exchange for payment, including goods in kind, which is not a recognised Implementing Partner.

**The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs)** means the universal commitment to end poverty, protect the environment and ensure prosperity for all. Adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, the Agenda is framed by 17 global goals.

Unless specified otherwise, terms used in this Policy have the meaning given to them by other policies of The Foundation.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Everything The Foundation does is built on our values of Integrity, Collaboration, Empowerment and Action. For us to remain strong and for our actions to be ethical, we must continue to look to our values in our everyday work.

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References

- 3.2 The Foundation recognises that climate change, pollution and environmental degradation present major threats to global eye health and delivery of eye health care. These threats risk undermining decades of progress in reducing the burden of avoidable blindness and vision impairment, with women and girls, people living in poverty, people with disability and other marginalised groups most impacted.
- 3.3 The Foundation understands that eye health services, including The Foundation's own operations and programs, have an impact on the environment by contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, consumption of resources, and production of healthcare and other waste.
- 3.4 Therefore, The Foundation acknowledges the importance of considering environmental risks and opportunities that might affect the future of The Foundation's work and the global community more broadly. There are significant co-benefits for the eye care sector in climate change action, as improved environmental conditions can improve healthcare outcomes.
- 3.5 This policy sets out The Foundation's commitments to improving environmental sustainability and climate change action within our operations, programming and advocacy. It is aligned with evidence-based strategies set out in the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) [Guide for Environmentally Sustainable Practices in the Eye Health Sector](#) (The IAPB Guide), and The Foundation's broader commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### 4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 The Foundation seeks to take a 'do no harm' approach to its activities and to make positive contributions to people and the environment wherever it works.
- 4.2 This policy addresses matters of Environmental Sustainability in the context of The Foundation's role as an eye health organisation. In that context, The Foundation will be guided by the following principles:
  - 4.2.1 **Stewardship** - Demonstrate environmental stewardship by recognising the impact that The Foundation's work has on the environment and committing to actions and ways of working that protect and minimize the negative ecological and climate impact of our work.
  - 4.2.2 **Human rights-based approach** – Acknowledge that the rights to life and health cannot be realised without basic rights to safe water, air and land.
  - 4.2.3 **Sustainability** - Recognise the cross-cutting nature of environmental sustainability and climate change with other matters affecting vulnerable and marginalised populations in the advancement of sustainable development, and approaching our response to environment in a manner consistent with the integrated and indivisible nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.
  - 4.2.4 **Culture** - Create and embed a culture that recognises, supports and builds staff and partner understanding of the importance of environmental sustainability within eye health.
  - 4.2.5 **Equity** - Ensure our work does not create or contribute to a situation where one group of people need to carry a greater environmental burden as a result of our actions.

#### 5. COMMITMENTS UNDER THIS POLICY

- 5.1 At an organisational level, The Foundation, in line with SDG 12 *Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production* and SDG 13 *Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*, is committed to:
  - 5.1.1 Identify negative environmental risks early and minimise and mitigate those risks wherever practicable.
  - 5.1.2 Reduce waste, resource and energy usage and consumption.

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#### References

- 5.1.3 Consider environmental sustainability when undertaking procurement, where practicable, and give preference to sustainable options in the selection of Suppliers where other factors are equal.
- 5.1.4 Work towards strengthening environmental criteria within our ethical screening, risk assessment, Due Diligence, and supply chain management approaches.
- 5.1.5 Promote best-practice procedures and a culture of sustainability among Personnel, including training employees on environmental sustainability and this Policy as appropriate to their role in the organisation, and encouraging sustainable practices both in the office and in the working from home environment.
- 5.1.6 Establish targets and identify supporting actions to reduce overall carbon emissions across its operations and programming activities and embed within strategic planning.
- 5.1.7 Maintain and promote compliance with our regulatory, sector and institutional donor environmental sustainability obligations including DFAT's Australian NGO Cooperation Program and ACFID (Australian Council For International Development) Code of Conduct.
- 5.1.8 Publish Disclosures on our actions and progress on environmental sustainability, as per commitments set out in this Policy, in a format relevant and appropriate for The Foundation.

## Operations

- 5.2 Within our operations, The Foundation is committed to reducing the environmental impact of travel, energy use and waste management within our offices.

## Programs

- 5.3 Through its programs, The Foundation is committed to:
  - 5.3.1 Promoting The IAPB Guide with Programs staff and Implementing Partners, and integrating environmental sustainability within capacity building efforts with Partners as relevant to their projects.
  - 5.3.2 Ensuring risk management and design processes for projects are informed by best practices within The Guide and any institutional donor requirements where practical.
  - 5.3.3 Increasing our efforts to partner with and learn from the experience of other organisations and partners who are advancing climate change action in their work at the global, national, and local level, and leverage and build upon existing examples of good practice through our ongoing programming relationships.

## Advocacy

- 5.4 To promote and influence greater action on environmental sustainability and climate change, The Foundation is committed to:
  - 5.4.1 Advocating within our sphere of influence, including within the eye health sector, the international development sector, and to our Implementing Partners, including Government Partners, to take greater action on environmental sustainability and climate change.
  - 5.4.2 Empowering the voices of vulnerable communities and their representatives in our advocacy on environmental sustainability, to ensure the impacts of climate change on the eye health of vulnerable and marginalized populations are elevated and prioritised.

## 6. LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 This Policy is informed by the principles set out in:
  - 6.1.1 The Sustainable Development Goals, in particular goals 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 4 (Quality Education), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production), 13 (Climate Action).

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### References

- 6.1.2 Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy.
- 6.1.3 The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Governance Standards and External Conduct Standards.
- 6.1.4 The Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct.

## **7. RESPONSIBILITIES & ACCOUNTABILITIES**

### **7.1 Chief Executive Officer**

- 7.1.1 The CEO is responsible for ensuring this Policy is upheld and will inform the Board of The Foundation of any concerns relating to Environmental Sustainability that may present risk to The Foundation, its Personnel, beneficiaries, partners, reputation, operations or other activities.
- 7.1.2 The CEO will ensure progress in relation to Environmental Sustainability across The Foundation is included in standard reporting to The Board.
- 7.1.3 The CEO will hold relevant Executive Directors accountable to this Policy.

### **7.2 Executive Directors**

- 7.2.1 Executive Directors will promote the existence of this Policy to all Personnel.
- 7.2.2 Executive Directors will ensure Foundation and Divisional procedures, practices, plans and operations align with this Policy and that all relevant Personnel are aware of, and understand, this Policy and their responsibilities under it.
- 7.2.3 Divisions are encouraged to put in place procedures and action plans to implement the commitments set out in this Policy. However, this Policy will prevail to the extent of any ambiguity or inconsistency between this Policy and those procedures and action plans.
- 7.2.4 Executive Directors are responsible for monitoring and responding to any Environmental Sustainability risks or concerns arising within The Foundation's business activities. The Executive Director will include risks and incidents on the Divisional risk register and seek the advice of the Policy Owner on issues of contention.

### **7.3 Policy Owner**

- 7.3.1 The Policy Owner is responsible to ensure the Policy complies with The Foundation's obligations and contemporary practice and will update this Policy as required.
- 7.3.2 The Policy Owner will be responsible for addressing any issues arising in relation to this Policy and will be or arrange a point of contact for all Personnel for any issue of contention.
- 7.3.3 The Policy Owner will assist the CEO prepare the reporting set out in 7.1.2.
- 7.3.4 The Policy Owner will inform the CEO of any key risk to The Foundation regarding environmental sustainability and will record risks and incidents on the organisational risk register.

### **7.4 All Personnel**

- 7.4.1 All Personnel will adhere to the principles and commitments under this Policy and any related procedures and action plans and will take all reasonable care to ensure that their actions or omissions are not in breach of this Policy nor directly or indirectly encourage others to breach this Policy.
- 7.4.2 All Personnel are responsible for identifying and responding to any Environmental Sustainability based risk or concerns arising within The Foundation's business activities. Any matters of contention must be reported to the Executive Director.

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#### References

7.4.3 Personnel may raise any conduct of concern in relation to environmental sustainability to their manager, anonymously to [speak-up@hollows.org](mailto:speak-up@hollows.org) or otherwise under The Foundation's [Speak-Up Policy](#).

## 7.5 All associated stakeholders

All associated stakeholders operating with or on behalf of The Foundation are responsible for understanding and abiding by the principles and relevant commitments under this Policy and advising the primary contact point within The Foundation of any issues that may arise.

## 8. MONITORING

- 8.1 A report on the implementation of this Policy will be submitted to the Board no less than annually across The Foundation's business activities, including the countries in which we work. The Policy Owner is responsible for compiling this report and submission to the CEO.
- 8.2 This Policy will be reviewed every year initially and the Policy Owner is responsible to undertake this review.
- 8.3 The Business Operations Division has oversight for all Organisational Policy and will ensure the Policy is listed on the Policy Register and provide support to Policy Owner to ensure monitoring and reporting obligations are met.

## CONTROL OF DOCUMENTATION

<b>Document Number</b>	ORG-057		
<b>Document Name</b>	Environmental Sustainability Policy		
<b>History</b>	This policy replaces the previous ORG-057 Sustainability Policy in order to provide focussed principles and commitments for The Foundation on environmental sustainability.		
<b>Date Created</b>	26/02/2019		
<b>Author(s)</b>	Compliance & Contracts Lead and Country Advocacy Adviser as Co-Chairs of the Environmental Sustainability Working Group		
<b>Master document location</b>	FredNet		
<b>Policy owner(s)</b>	Business Operations Executive Director		
<b>Division</b>	Business Operations		
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<b>Second Review</b>	Governance & Nominations Committee		
<b>Approval Body</b>	Board		
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<b>Next review date</b>	29/05/2023	<b>Review Period</b>	1 year
<b>Related Policies</b>	ORG-004 Corporate Governance Charter; ORG-072 Human Rights Equity & Inclusion Policy; ORG-069 Procurement Policy; ORG-003 Safeguarding People Policy; and ORG-024 Communications & Transparency Policy		

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### References