



1. Policy statement

1.1 The Arboricultural Association (the Association) recognises that it has a responsibility to the environment and sustainability which goes beyond legal and regulatory requirements. The Association is committed to continually improving our environmental performance through embedding sustainability and the reduction of our environmental impact as integral parts of our business strategy and operating methods.

2. Overview

2.1 The Association's concern for the environment and the promotion of a broad sustainability agenda are integral to its professional activities and management of the organisation, not only at the office at the Malthouse, Gloucestershire, but for activities such as training and at events such as the Annual Amenity Conference. Furthermore, the Association will actively seek to encourage its membership, accreditation scheme members and partner organisations to do the same.

2.2 The Chief Executive officer (CEO) has ownership of this policy and has responsibility for seeing that it is implemented. However, consideration for the environment and sustainability is also the responsibility of all staff team members and volunteers at the Association. In addition, the threat of the climate crisis is specifically referenced in our Strategic Plan 2022-24.

3. Policy aims

3.1 The Association will:

3.1.1 General

- Comply with all relevant regulatory requirements and codes of practice.
- Incorporate environmental sustainability into business decisions.
- Minimise the impact of the Association's activities on the environment.
- Review all business activities including usage of materials and travel.
- Continually improve and monitor environmental performance.
- Increase employee and member awareness.

3.1.2 Office consumables

- Minimise the use of paper and packaging in the office.
- Use recycled and eco-friendly materials wherever possible and appropriate.

- Ensure timber, furniture and other products are sustainably sourced.
- Seek to repair rather than replace where possible.
- Only use licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste.

3.1.3 Energy and water

- Reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible.
- Source energy from a supplier committed to renewable energy.
- Switch off lights and electrical equipment when not in use.
- Adjust heat with energy consumption in mind.
- Consider energy efficiency when purchasing new equipment.
- Introduce smart technology to monitor energy performance more effectively.

3.1.4 Travel and transportation

- Reduce the need for travel wherever possible.
- Use technology to encourage virtual and hybrid meetings where appropriate.
- Promote the use of alternatives to driving and flying.
- Encourage the use of sustainable transport.

4. Monitoring and improvement

4.1 The Association will:

- Comply with all relevant regulatory requirements.
- Increase employee awareness through briefings and training.
- Involve employees in the implementation of this policy.
- Work with members, suppliers and contractors to help improve their performance.
- Review this policy on an annual basis and update as required.

5. Review

5.1 This Policy was adopted by the Board of Trustees on August 9th, 2022. It will be reviewed and ratified annually by the Board of Trustees.

6. Document control

Written by: John Parker, CEO.
Reviewed by: Board of Trustees.
Approved by Board: August 9th, 2022.
Reapproved by Board: October 2nd, 2023.
Next review date: October 2024.