

Charity Number: 1156427

Somerford ARC Community Centre

# Environmental Sustainability Policy

Created: July 2025



## **General statement of Policy**

Somerford ARC Community Centre recognises that it has a responsibility to the environment beyond regulatory compliance and best practice. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and continually improving our performance as part of our organisational strategy and daily operations.

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. Somerford ARC Community Centre will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and regulatory requirements. We will regularly monitor, evaluate, and seek to improve our environmental performance.
- 1.2. We are committed to:
  - Minimising our environmental footprint by using energy, water, and materials efficiently.
  - Promoting awareness of sustainability and encouraging positive behavioural change among trustees, employees, volunteers and service users.
  - Integrating environmental considerations into our decision-making processes, including procurement, service delivery and project planning.
  - Encouraging sustainable practices within our wider community.
- 1.3. Somerford ARC Community Centre follows the waste hierarchy as a guiding principle, as stated in the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, Section 12(a):
  - Prevention: Avoid producing waste by eliminating unnecessary materials.
  - Reduce: minimise the resources we use by increasing efficiency and avoiding excess.
  - Re-use: use items multiple times or repurpose them to extend their life span.
  - Recycle: recycle materials only after re-use options are exhausted.
  - Dispose: Only dispose of materials when all other options have been exhausted, ensuring they are handled in an environmentally responsible manner.

### **2. Legislation**

- 2.1. Somerford ARC Community Centre will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations, including but not limited to:
  - Environmental Protection Act 1990
  - Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
  - Climate Change Act 2008
  - Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989

***Updates to environmental legislation will be monitored and incorporated as necessary.***

### **3. Responsibilities**

#### **3.1. Trustees:**

- Oversee the implementation and ongoing review of this Environmental Sustainability Policy.
- Ensure environmental performance is considered in strategic decisions and organisational governance.
- Promote and support sustainable practices across the organisation.

#### **3.2. Employees:**

- Implement the policy through environmentally responsible actions in day-to-day operations.
- Identify and report any environmental concerns, suggestions, or incidents to the board of trustees.

#### **3.3. Volunteers, hirer and service users:**

- Support the centres environmental goals by using resources responsibly.
- Follow sustainable practices when using the centre and encourage others to do the same where appropriate.

### **4. Waste management**

#### **4.1. Somerford ARC Community centre is committed to reducing the volume of waste generated by encouraging the responsible use of materials and minimising use on single-use products.**

#### **4.2. Our organisation will encourage all staff, volunteers, and service users to:**

- Choose reusable, refillable, or long lasting alternatives.
- Minimise packaging waste and prioritise recyclable or combustible materials where possible.

### **5. Paper use**

#### **5.1. We aim to reduce paper use through digital communication, shared drives, and electronic filing systems.**

#### **5.2. When printing is necessary, FCS- certified or recycled paper will be used.**

#### **5.3. Scrap paper is repurposed for internal use or crafting and creative activities.**

### **6. Energy and water**

#### **6.1. Energy use is monitored, and energy-efficient lighting, appliances, and heating systems are installed.**

#### **6.2. Closing procedures require all lights and electrical items are turned off when not in use.**

- 6.3. Water-saving fixtures such as sensor taps have been installed, and users are encouraged to use water responsibly.
- 6.4. Heating systems are regulated to prevent unnecessary energy use.
- 6.5. Energy efficiency and overall consumption is a key factor when upgrading equipment and appliances.

***The centre currently has an energy performance rating of C, with a series of recommended improvements identified over a seven year period, with the aim to significantly reduce the buildings carbon emissions.***

## **7. Office Supplies**

- 7.1. Somerford ARC Community Centre prioritises the use of environmentally friendly, non-toxic, and recyclable office supplies.
- 7.2. Bulk purchasing helps to reduce packaging waste and delivery-related emissions.
- 7.3. Single use or disposable items are avoided unless absolutely necessary.

## **8. Transportation**

- 8.1. Employees, volunteers, and visitors are encouraged to walk, cycle, car share or use public transport where possible.
- 8.2. Bicycle racks are provided to support active travel.
- 8.3. Teams meetings are promoted to reduce unnecessary travel and emissions.

## **9. Maintenance and cleaning**

- 9.1. Environmentally friendly, biodegradable, and non-toxic cleaning products are used wherever possible.
- 9.2. Regular maintenance, in partnership with SNG Housing, ensures optimal performance of heating, insulation, and plumbing systems to prevent energy and water waste.

## **10. Monitoring and improvement**

- 10.1. Performance will be reviewed annually to track energy use, waste reduction, purchasing habits, and other key environmental metrics.
- 10.2. Training will be provided to staff and volunteers to support ongoing improvement.
- 10.3. Feedback will be gathered from employees, volunteers, centre users, and community partners to identify opportunities for further improvement.

## **11. Culture and Engagement**

- 11.1. Environmental responsibility through awareness-raising, education, and leading by example and community involvement.
- 11.2. We prioritise the use of local labour and materials where possible to reduce carbon emissions and support the local economy.

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