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**Environment policy**

It is LINK strategy to ensure that all its operations as LINK are carried out in an environmentally sustainable way as part of the network’s commitment to being an effective, efficient and accountable network.

All engaged in working under the LINK nameare encouraged to keep abreast of relevant environmental issues and to take an active role in the application and future development of this policy. Please refer to points listed below.

The LINK Board will have overall responsibility for reviewing progress of the network in relation to policy.

The network is also committed to developing and implementing procedures for acting as far as possible towards our aspiration of a sustainable Scotland and to encourage all members to do this within their own organisations and work programmes.

LINK is working to minimise the adverse impact of its activities on the environment. This includes a preference for renewable resources of all kinds, keeping waste production to a minimum, placing emphasis on its responsible disposal and ensuring travel is conducted in such a way that minimises environmental impact.

This policy applies to initiatives of members working together including both LINK organised events and events organised by others working under the LINK name (such as members, convenors, delegates, Board etc).

The policy includes:

1. promoting sustainable procurement policies
2. using recycled office and other supplies whenever practicable,
3. sourcing equipment, consumables and printed material from suppliers which operate sound environmental policies themselves.
4. Purchasing refurbished equipment (including both electronic and electrical equipment and office furniture) where practicable
5. using distance travelled as part of the selection criteria when purchasing goods
6. for catered events, assuming that, except where dietary needs dictate –
* all catering will be 100% vegetarian, (however if demand dictates the inclusion of meat dishes) then consideration will be made to include meat from sustainable, locally sourced and extensively reared suppliers
* all tableware is reusable (i.e. no plastic cutlery, plates etc)
1. When sourcing a supplier consideration should also be given to using local social enterprises/charitable providers.
2. Offering staff and members the opportunity to make use of video/tele-conferencing where practicable to afford access to participants who might otherwise not be able to attend and to reduce travel.
3. minimising business travel, and choosing venues and times which allow participants to travel by public transport
4. making all reasonable use of public transport and cycling or walking when travelling on business, and car-sharing as much as possible where private car must be used
5. making careful use of energy of all kinds, in the daily running of offices and in choosing and refurbishing offices
6. taking care that LINK activities are carried out in such a way that damage to the natural environment is minimised and commitment to environmental sustainability is maximised
7. ensuring that carbon accounting is annually published (in LINK annual report and accounts) in relation to business travel (members, staff and others to LINK events), energy and waste (LINK offices), and commuting (LINK staff)

LINK's environmental policy is based on the principle of the "3 Rs" - Reducing consumption of energy and other resources, Re-using resources as much as possible and Recycling where possible. To achieve this, LINK staff, groups and sub groups, board, and member representatives should recognise that they also have an individual responsibility in implementing LINK's environmental policy.

In addition, LINK also has a Green Office Policy which outlines in further detail how LINK activities can be carried out in such a way that damage to the natural environment is minimised. In keeping with its strategic objective as a network to tread sustainably, guidance for the network has been developed in relation to travel, officeaccommodation, procurement and other areas. Network awareness of the policy will be promoted and the policy will be formally reviewed once a year by the Board (or sooner if circumstances dictate).

LINK will keep its staff and membershipinformed of progress made, new green office initiatives etc., and welcomes suggestions as to further initiatives that could be adopted.