

Environmental Policy

Healthwatch Cornwall acknowledges the connection between the climate and other environmental crises and the threat of current and future homelessness, disease, food and water shortages and poverty for millions of people around the world, as well as the major damage being caused to our natural eco-systems.

It therefore recognises its responsibility to reduce its carbon and environmental footprints and formally commits itself to being an environmentally responsible organisation.

To take this forward it commits to the following actions:

1. The CEO will assume executive responsibility for taking forward and implementing this commitment. They are also requested to provide an environmental impact summary in the Annual Report.
2. Progress on improvement of Healthwatch Cornwall's environmental performance will be a standard item at senior management meetings and reviewed annually by the Board of Directors.
3. All staff contracts will include a clause stating that staff must adhere to this policy and are expected to help Healthwatch Cornwall carry out its aim of being an environmentally responsible organisation, in how they carry out their day-to-day duties.
4. Induction procedures for new staff will include information on the charity's environmental practices.
5. We will ask all our current and future suppliers for their environmental policies and for evidence of implementation of such policies and indicate that such performance will be used as criteria for supplier selection.
6. Healthwatch Cornwall will seek, when appointing suppliers, to prioritise suppliers within Cornwall to reduce travel requirements.
7. We will seek where appropriate and possible to conduct meetings virtually to negate the need for travel thus reducing the organisation's carbon footprint.
8. We will observe existing environmental legislation as a minimum standard and seek to out-perform current legislative requirements where practical.
9. We will use recycled materials where possible across all areas of the organisation's work.

10. We will develop and maintain a sustainable transport policy for staff, seeking to reduce unnecessary travel and making the transport that is necessary as sustainable as possible.

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Review	January 2022		

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