



**BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION**

Sustainability Policy July 2021

Document version: V2

Policy owner: Head of Operations

Policy review date: July 2024

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 20 July 2021

Blue Marine Foundation ('BLUE') exists to protect oceans for future generations to come; sustainability is therefore at the heart of BLUE's activities. However, we recognise that through our operations we have an impact on the environment. We therefore set ourselves high standards for minimising the negative environmental impacts of our activities and to continuously improve our environmental performance.

This policy covers 7 key areas for monitoring and managing environmental impacts:

1. Procurement

Sustainability is an important consideration for BLUE when purchasing goods and services.

- *We aim to only purchase from suppliers that have strong environmental policies and performance and a good record of corporate responsibility.*
- *Where possible, we purchase products which have environmental/sustainability accreditation.*
- *Where possible, we source organic and sustainable items for the office, including tea, coffee and plant-based milk alternatives. Fruit is sourced organically and locally.*
- *We only purchase 100% recycled paper for printing and encourage staff to only print where necessary.*
- *We use Europe's most sustainable t shirt company (GOTS organic certified and vegan approved) for our BLUE-branded apparel.*
- *We only produce virtual newsletters and the majority of our publications are virtual. Where printed publications are necessary (for example our Annual Review), we prioritise printers that offer the highest environmental standards.*

2. Education and Staff Incentives

BLUE champions awareness of environmental issues among staff, consultants and volunteers and encourages the use of best environmental practice wherever possible.

- *We encourage staff to travel by bike through the Cycle to Work salary sacrifice scheme.*
- *We encourage staff to drive electric cars through the Electric Vehicle salary sacrifice scheme.*
- *We encourage staff to invest their pensions in the Blue Marine Responsible Investment AE, a carefully selected portfolio of sustainable and ethical funds.*
- *We communicate the Sustainability Policy regularly to all existing staff and to all new starters as part of the induction process.*

3. Travel

BLUE seeks to reduce the carbon footprint of the transport used in BLUE operations. We encourage staff to following the principles below:

- *If the meeting or activity can be conducted effectively virtually, then do not travel.*
- *Where travel is necessary, use the lowest-carbon form of travel that is practical to the trip requirements. Use public transport or bicycle where possible, car-share where possible, or use an employee's electric vehicle if possible.*
- *If a flight is required, director-level approval must be obtained to verify the international travel is necessary.*

In addition,

- *We encourage staff to work flexibly between home and the office, to reduce travel to the office during peak times.*
- *We encourage staff to travel by bike through the Cycle to Work salary sacrifice scheme.*
- *We encourage staff to drive electric cars through the Electric Vehicle salary sacrifice scheme.*
- *We purchase goods and services locally where possible.*

4. Waste

BLUE seeks to operate with minimal waste, particularly when using materials that cannot be recycled.

- *We encourage all staff and project partners to operate according to the 4 Rs – reduce, reuse, repair, recycle.*
- *We encourage all staff to minimise plastic and paper waste in their day-to-day activities.*
- *We collect food waste separately to other waste and recycling, which is then composted.*
- *We have collaborations with partners to provide BLUE-branded water bottles for staff, to reduce our single-use plastic bottle waste.*
- *We provide BLUE-branded canvas bags for staff, to reduce our single-use plastic bag waste.*
- *We ensure vehicles, machinery and equipment are regularly maintained to extend their lifespan.*

5. Energy and Water Use

BLUE seeks to reduce energy use resulting from its operations and to support the use of renewable energy where this does not conflict with the objective of protecting the ocean.

- *We support campaigns for using renewable energy in our offices at Somerset House*
- *We support campaigns for reducing energy and water usage in our offices at Somerset House*
- *We reduce electricity use through ensuring lights are turned off when offices are not in use, turning off computers, printers etc. when not in use.*
- *We seek to use energy efficient devices where possible.*

6. Partners and Investments

BLUE is careful to only enter partnerships with companies that share our values.

- *We only select and work with corporate partners that have environmental policies and standards that we can support.*
- *We only select investment portfolios that meet carefully reviewed criteria on sustainable and ethical investments.*

7. Monitoring and Review

BLUE will keep abreast of and comply with all environmental legislation, monitor its environmental performance and undertake regular reviews of the Sustainability Policy.

- *Staff will keep up to date with environmental legislation, integrate changes into policies and procedures and communicate these to staff/volunteers/contractors.*
- *We undertake environmental impact assessments for all major projects.*