



Environmental Policy

November 2021

Introduction

Be Free Young Carers acknowledges its responsibility to maintaining a sound sustainable environment within the scope of supporting and advancing the cause of young carers in Oxfordshire.

Be Free Young Carers recognises the importance, no matter how small, of the impact of our activities on the environment and that there is a need to constantly consider ways in which we can conserve energy and minimise waste in all activities undertaken.

This policy is communicated to all persons working for or on behalf of the organisation.

Be Free Young Carers actively acknowledges our responsibility to protect the environment in all areas of its work, from the range of activities supporting young carers and its campaigns, to actions within the office, minimising the use of paper where possible, as well as using FSC recycled paper when printing and in our publications. Specifically, Be Free Young Carers remains committed to reducing its impact upon the environment as follows:

- **Waste Management** - It is Be Free Young Carers' policy to work with our staff, volunteers and suppliers to ensure that all waste is disposed of in line with legal and environmental requirements;
- **Recycling and use of Recycling Materials** - To utilise, and promote the use of, recycled materials whenever possible, ensuring that materials are disposed of in an environmentally safe manner at the end of their useful life;
- **Energy Conservation** - To manage electricity, water and gas supplies to ensure minimum consumption through energy efficient initiatives. It is Be Free Young Carers' policy to:
 - make efficient use of natural light within our building;
 - conserve energy by adopting an 'only turn on when using' approach to equipment;
 - screen suppliers to ensure that materials provided by third parties adhere to green credentials.

Be Free Young Carers also seeks out opportunities to use its position in Oxfordshire to raise awareness of energy conservation to our stakeholders;

- **Environmental Management Awareness** - To raise and maintain a high level of understanding of, and participation in, environmental best practices by staff, volunteers and suppliers. Environmental objectives and targets are set and audited by the internal auditor, the Team Administrator;
- **Pollution** - Be Free Young Carers is committed to and ensures the continual improvement and the prevention of pollution and will remain committed to this objective;
- **Legal requirements** - Be Free Young Carers is committed to compliance with applicable legal and with other requirements that relate to our impact on the environment and our environmental aspects.

To ensure the organisation maintains its awareness for continuous improvement, our environmental performance is regularly reviewed and is subject to annual audit.