



Creating Safe Connections & Environments that Promote Development

Environment Impact & Ethics Action Plan

Short, medium and long-term goals

The looming threat of climate change, environmental degradation and dwindling natural resources impacts us all. As a company, REACH recognises it's responsibility to safeguard not only this generation of young people, but also future generations to come. This recognition is underpinned by an understanding that systems cannot be viewed in isolation; societies and the environment are inherently linked. In short, REACH must couple environmental ambitions with an emphasis on promoting sustainable, just social systems.

To enact positive change at REACH's level of influence, this report outlines a series of goals it hopes to achieve across 3 separate time scales. These will focus on 3 different areas of the business; food, transport and building operations. A miscellaneous category will be offered when this chosen topic does not fit into one of these aforementioned areas. To ensure this isn't purely lip service, REACH will organise the results to be routinely interrogated by a panel of staff members (independent from the Leadership Team). Finally, the document will be considered as 'live'. As a result, there will be no finish line, rather, goals will be consistently reviewed and updated as REACH aims to lead the charge in the greening of alternative education provision.

*****Update – APRIL, 2025*****

CHANGES IMPLEMENTED

- *Removal of plastic, single-use water bottles from base*
- *Comprehensive recycling at South Petherton base*
- *Reduced paper consumption with digitisation of file keeping systems*
- *Support local, small-scale businesses by purchasing many of food products via these businesses*

- *Shift towards purchasing from ethically run, eco-friendly companies*
- *Food waste disposal system now present at South Petherton base*
- *Planning of reforestation week at REACH. Budget sacrifice from Young People - £1 = 1 tree. REACH will match this.*

SHORT TERM

3 months or less

Food

Begin shift to stocking bases with locally produced food, with emphasis on buying from small scale, ethically-sound producers.

Transport

Encourage staff to take up electric car options using the mileage payments as a means of funding it.

Encourage any reduction of car use when possible.

Recycling options available for staff in their cars

Building Operations

Buy fully recycled paper for each base

Ensure current building usage is as efficient as possible

MEDIUM TERM

1 year or less

Food

Source and development of allotment patch and begin stocking bases with food grown from this space.

Transition all food sourcing (where possible) to organic, Fairtrade and high animal welfare production methods.

Consider ways to reduce meat/fish consumption in daily operations (particular emphasis on processed meat).

Transport

Set up a pot to financially support staff's transition to electric cars.

Building Operations

'Smarting' the infrastructure of buildings to steadily increase the efficiency in which the company operates (e.g. paint radiators black).

Transition to greener energy company.

Recycled hand towels and toilet rolls to be used exclusively across all sites.

Miscellaneous

Have an independent environmental impact assessment undertaken to evaluate and quantify REACH's impact on the environment.

Undertake a Green REACH Week which among other things will offset REACH's weekly carbon footprint via a tree planting scheme.

Establish and publish an Environmental Policy Statement with time-sensitive goals.

Develop and share wider environmental policies.

LONG TERM

Up to 5 years

Food

Eliminate food waste from the operations of our organisation.

Transport

Consider and implement changes in service delivery, transitioning away from reliance on car use.

Reduction in annual mileage of service delivery.

Building Operations

Be a paperless organisation

Upgrade base heating systems with emphasis on efficiency and cleaner methods of energy production.

Insulate window/doors of bases to improve efficiency of buildings – replacements may be necessary.

Introduce solar panels to bases (if possible)

Miscellaneous

Ensure that each new project has an associated Environmental Impact Assessment undertaken prior to it's launch, and if deemed too damaging the project does not go ahead