



Environmental Sustainability Policy

It is becoming increasingly clear that we are now living beyond the capacity of our global support system. Human activities, particularly with population increases and soaring demands for energy, are profoundly altering the global environment, the ecological balance and threatening the survival of many species, our own included, with which we share the planet. In short, we are behaving unsustainably.

Awareness and the realisation of climate and environmental change, and the interconnections between global warming, environmental degradation, species loss, poverty etc. are becoming more recognised generally and internationally. Our belief is that successful sustainability practice has to engage people at a local level and be formed by their aspirations, fears and needs for the future. Programmes for action have to inspire and grow from the grassroots. Sustainability can be an elusive concept and REAP believe that many of the small actions taken by individuals may already be environmentally responsible and that opportunities to seek connections will be valued as empowering a greater personal and community effectiveness towards sustainable living.

Because sustainable development is synonymous with community development, community well being and quality of life, the remit of REAP to develop 'rural education' makes it ideally suited to promote programmes of environmental education and education for sustainability that will help re-integrate people with the natural world.

Through our policy, we will ensure that every aspect of our activities is conducted in accordance with sound environmental practices. We foster much of this through the work and projects we carry out, the suppliers we use and partners and organisations we work alongside. Our collective task is to ensure that we continually improve the environmental impact of our total activities. By this policy, REAP recognises its responsibility towards the protection of the environment, and issues this statement as a commitment of both management and employees to minimising the environmental impact of its operations.

The 'Green Office' Policy

In recognition of our wider environmental policy, REAP also work to a 'Green Office' set of standards. This is principally to create a 'green', ecologically friendly working environment to reduce the impact of our business on the environment. Our ethic will in turn be communicated to staff, clients, project beneficiaries, project partners and the wider community.

- REAP only use recycled paper for our printers, and have a store of 'scrap' paper for use in the office. We additionally shred all paper for recycling purposes.
- All electrical equipment is switched off every day, including lights and equipment with 'stand-by' functions. Energy-saving bulbs are used for lighting.
- Printer cartridges are recycled.
- Only essential e-mails are printed.
- REAP strives to employ only local professionals, tradespersons and suppliers.
- Where possible and available, REAP have a no plastic policy and look to use biodegradable materials / products, so as to minimise all other waste.
- Orders are placed on-line and in bulk where possible, to minimise additional carbon emissions associated with driving.
- REAP's website is constantly being updated so as to host as much information as possible, and in turn, minimising the need to post out information, and subsequently creating the carbon emissions 'chain' from this.
- REAP encourages car-share travelling, and is a local leader in implementing projects, which openly exemplifies good environmental practice through the operation of groups of participants sharing transport provision; greatly reducing carbon emissions.