



# ReConnect Environmental Policy

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# Environmental Policy

## ReConnect 1-1 Programme

### 1. Purpose

This Environmental Policy sets out our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint and minimising the environmental impact of our operations, in alignment with Suffolk County Council's Climate Change initiatives. As a responsible provider, we aim to contribute to Suffolk's goal of becoming carbon neutral by embedding sustainable practices into all areas of our operations.

### 2. Scope

This policy applies to all employees, contractors, stakeholders, and service users, covering the environmental impact of our facilities, transport, procurement, and service delivery.

### 3. Key Environmental Objectives

- **Reduce Carbon Emissions:** Minimise carbon emissions from all operations, including energy use in buildings, transport, and procurement.
- **Promote Sustainable Practices:** Ensure sustainable sourcing of materials and services and encourage eco-friendly practices among staff and stakeholders.
- **Waste Reduction and Recycling:** Implement a comprehensive waste management system that focuses on reducing, reusing, and recycling across all operations.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Maximise energy efficiency in our premises, equipment, and processes.
- **Sustainable Transport:** Promote sustainable travel options, including public transport, car-sharing, cycling, and walking.
- **Awareness and Training:** Deliver regular training on environmental awareness and sustainability for staff and service users.

### 4. Responsibilities

- **Management:** Responsible for ensuring all policies and practices align with environmental objectives and overseeing the implementation of the carbon reduction plan.
- **Staff and Stakeholders:** Expected to adhere to the principles of this policy and actively contribute to sustainability initiatives within their roles.

## Environmental Action Plan / Carbon Reduction Plan

**Objective:** To reduce carbon emissions and minimise environmental impact whilst maintaining high-quality service delivery.

### 1. Energy Management

- **Action:** Carry out an energy audit to identify areas for improvement.

- **Target:** Reduce energy use by 20% over the next three years.
- **Measures:**
  - Upgrade to energy-efficient lighting and appliances.
  - Implement automated systems to control heating and lighting.
  - Explore the use of renewable energy (e.g. solar panels).

## 2. Sustainable Transport

- **Action:** Develop a sustainable transport policy.
- **Target:** Cut carbon emissions from transport by 25% over five years.
- **Measures:**
  - Introduce incentives for carpooling and cycling.
  - Transition to electric or hybrid vehicles for business use.
  - Collaborate with Suffolk County Council to create lower-impact transport solutions.

## 3. Waste Management

- **Action:** Implement a thorough waste reduction and recycling programme.
- **Target:** Achieve a 50% reduction in non-recyclable waste by 2026.
- **Measures:**
  - Provide recycling bins for paper, plastic, and other materials.
  - Reduce paper use by adopting digital communication and record-keeping.
  - Partner with local recycling facilities to ensure proper waste management.

## 4. Sustainable Procurement

- **Action:** Review procurement processes to prioritise environmentally friendly and locally sourced products.
- **Target:** Ensure 80% of purchased products are sustainable and eco-friendly by 2025.
- **Measures:**
  - Prioritise suppliers with strong environmental credentials.
  - Eliminate single-use plastics across all operations.
  - Invest in durable, long-lasting equipment to minimise waste.

## 5. Water Conservation

- **Action:** Introduce water-saving practices throughout all facilities.
- **Target:** Reduce water consumption by 15% over two years.
- **Measures:**
  - Install water-efficient fixtures (e.g. taps, toilets).
  - Educate staff and service users about water conservation.
  - Investigate rainwater harvesting options.

## 6. Environmental Education and Awareness

- **Action:** Raise environmental awareness among staff and students.
- **Target:** Ensure 100% of staff are trained on environmental sustainability by the end of the year.
- **Measures:**
  - Provide workshops on sustainability, waste reduction, and energy efficiency.

- Integrate environmental topics into the curriculum or activities to engage service users.

## 7. Monitoring and Reporting

- **Action:** Establish a system to track environmental performance and progress.
- **Target:** Publish annual reports on environmental performance and carbon reduction.
- **Measures:**
  - Implement data collection systems to monitor energy use, waste output, and carbon emissions.
  - Provide annual updates to Suffolk County Council on environmental progress.

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