



Environmental Sustainability Policy



HOPE for Epilepsy Environmental Sustainability Policy

Purpose of this Policy

HOPE for Epilepsy (also referred to as 'us', 'we', and 'the charity' in this document) recognise the importance of adopting practices that enable the protection of the environment as well as being sustainable in nature.

The government's 'State of the Environment: health, people and the environment' 2021 report demonstrates clear links between better physical and mental well-being and a healthy natural environment. The recent COP26 (UN Climate Change Conference in 2021) also highlighted the dangers affecting our environment on a global scale. It is with these overarching goals in mind that we developed this policy.

The Waste Hierarchy:

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs established the waste hierarchy in 2011, in order to establish a ranking of waste management options that benefit the environment. These - along with examples relevant to the charity - are:

- Prevention - keeping resources and products for longer.
- Preparing for re-use - checking and repairing.
- Recycling - utilising existing processes in the setting we host our sessions in.
- Other recovery - other local waste management schemes.
- Disposal - trying to reduce what goes directly to landfill in what we do.

Materials and Resources

Charity Management Documents

All documents pertaining to the running of HOPE for Epilepsy (for example trustee meeting minutes/agendas and annual reports) will be communicated electronically wherever possible. We would also never encourage the printing of these documents unless the individual concerned has reason to or health conditions that mean they benefit from it

Fundraising

Unless specifically requested by a potential or existing trust fund/grant-maker to the contrary, all fundraising communications will be sent electronically.

If individuals who fundraise on our behalf request any assistance from us, we will endeavour to encourage environmentally responsible and sustainable methods in what we advise.



Refreshments

We currently receive refreshments for our support sessions from a local Morrison's supermarket, as a company they have extensive sustainability, carbon management, and food waste policies.

Managing Waste

HOPE for Epilepsy hosts our support sessions at Oakleigh School in Whetstone, London. Where possible we utilise the existing waste disposal they have.

Energy Use

As a charity, we are mindful of energy use. The setting where we host our support sessions is responsible for the equipment and resources within their building, but we endeavour to make the most efficient use of what they have while we are there.

Water Use

As with energy use, although the setting we hold our sessions in has the ultimate responsibility for the utilities, we endeavour to use them in a mindful way.

Emissions and Transport

Support Sessions

Our support sessions are free to those who can travel to attend them. We recognise that due to the nature of epilepsy and the complex health needs that can accompany paediatric epilepsy, it is not always possible for families to use public transport.

Trustee Meetings

There is an opportunity for trustees to attend meetings remotely, which cuts down on travel and emissions and removes barriers to trustees attending meetings.

Anti-suffocation Pillows

A key aspect of what HOPE for Epilepsy does is the provision of anti-suffocation pillows. We source these from Sleep-safe who have their own policies and procedures regarding environmental sustainability.

Responsibilities

HOPE for Epilepsy recognises the publication from the Charity Commission 'Going Green: Charities and Environmental Responsibility' which sets out the legal and regulatory context of the role of charities in sustainable practices.

Date	Action	By whom
November 2022	Created	Louise Miller (Trustee, Secretary)
November 2022	Checked and reviewed	Dr Nadine Gurr (Chair of Trustees)
November 2023	Reviewed	Louise Miller (Trustee, Secretary)
October 2024	Edited (HOPE for Paediatric Epilepsy: London replaced with HOPE for Epilepsy as per rebrand Food/refreshment supplier changed from Warburton's bakery in Enfield to Morrison's)	Louise Miller (Trustee, Secretary)
<i>November 2025</i>	<i>Date of next review</i>	