

EARLY YEARS ALLIANCE
Registered as an Educational Charity

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1.1 Introduction

- 1.2** The Early Years Alliance is the largest early years membership organisation in England, representing the interests of 14,000 Alliance members who deliver care and learning to over 800,000 families every year.

2.0 Policy

- 2.1** The Alliance seeks to improve its impact on the environment, taking in account individual business activities and taking guidance from current and pending environmental legislation. It considers the business of the charity to be fairly low impact and the risk associated with the services provided to be typical of those within the sector. Despite this, the Alliance's policy is to manage its activities so as:

- To avoid causing unnecessary or unacceptable risk to employees, volunteers, contractors, children and families and other service users; and
- To reduce adverse effects on the environment.

- 2.2** The Alliance will ensure that significant risks to the environment associated with its activities are assessed and minimised.

3.0 Training and control

- 3.1** The Alliance will provide suitable and sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision to employees regarding impacts on the environment. Employees, volunteers and contractors will make proper use of any equipment and systems of work provided. The Alliance will take all reasonable steps to ensure that control measures are properly used.

- 3.2** The Alliance will also ensure that those who undertake environmental impact assessments are competent to do so.

4.0 Actions and commitments

- 4.1** The Alliance accepts responsibility for the harmful effects its activities may have on both the local and global environment and is committed to preventing pollution. The Alliance will:

- Develop an Environmental Management system to aid our commitment to continual improvement.
- Take part in a variety of projects that raised awareness of environmental issues with children and their families.

- Produce a publication that promotes good environmental practices within settings.
- Compile an inventory of all hazardous substances in its premises that could be released into the environment.
- Identify activities that use significant amounts of energy with the aim of reducing the consumption. Identify activities that use resources such as paper, and aim to reduce the current level of consumption, and identifying savings where possible.
- Identify waste streams with a view to recycling and reuse.
- Make better use of the thermal insulation of premises to minimise energy use in heating and lighting, where this is within the control of the Alliance.
- Encouraging car-sharing, use of public transport, cycling and working from home where practicable.
- Encourage use of electronic communication e.g. Skype, Twitter, YouTube etc.
- Ensure that any control measures in place are adequately maintained, examined and tested.
- Ensure that arrangements and procedures are in place to deal with accidents, incidents, spillages and emergencies and that members of staff are aware of these procedures.
- Put arrangements, including supervision, in place to ensure that employees properly use control measures.
- Encourage our service users, members and others to receive electronic documents from the Alliance.
- Communicate this policy to all individuals working for or on behalf of the Alliance and make available to any interested party.
- Comply with all applicable legal requirements.
- Set environmental objectives and targets and to review these on regular basis.
- Require the adoption of similar principles from our suppliers and contractors.

5.0 Project Title - Family Learning: Routes to Improved Health and Wellbeing.

5.1 Engagement Project title - Sowing and Growing

- Encourage families to start 'growing their own foods/produce' and using this produce when preparing meals. Advise on seasonal growing and how to preserve gluts in produce.
- Encourage 'companion planting' to reduce the need for pesticides and learn

more about plant care.

- Where possible use recycled items e.g. make biodegradable pots from old newspapers, reuse plant pots and supermarket containers for planting; scrap paper and card folders for activities etc.
- Members of ESiF team to car share whenever possible, cutting down on fuel emissions, to and from outreach venues, meetings and training.
- Show families (parents, carers, grandparents) how everyday out materials can be used for children's play, craft or collage e.g. out of date pulses, newspapers, cardboard tubes.
- Where possible all handouts will be double sided; all registration paperwork will be printed in black ink
- Recipe cards will be laminated for reuse
- Keeping it local! - engaged with local nursery to provide plants, seeds and advise on seasonal growing. Encourage families to shop locally in order to cut down on carbon footprint.
- Engage with local food wastage team.

6.0 Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in line with organisational procedures unless there are changes in legislation, best practice or other organisation policies impact on its effectiveness.

Next review date October 2025.