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**Environment Policy**

**Mission Statement**

The British Ecological Society recognises its responsibility to the environment beyond legal and regulatory requirements. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and to continually improving our environmental performance as an integral part of our business ethos. We actively encourage and where possible provide opportunities for our members, suppliers and others do the same.

**Responsibility**

The Board of Trustees and Executive Officer is responsible for ensuring that this environment policy is fully implemented. Each of our employees and members conducting business on behalf of the BES have a responsibility to ensure that the aims and objectives of this policy are met in carrying out their individual work activities.

**Policy Aims**

* Comply with, and exceed where possible, all relevant environmental regulatory requirements that BES is subject to
* Continually improve and monitor our environmental performance
* Continually improve and reduce our material environmental impacts
* Incorporate environmental factors into our business strategy and business decisions
* Increase employees’ environmental awareness and training

**Energy and Water**

* Reduce the amount of energy we use by placing an emphasis on energy efficiency through active performance monitoring and management as an operational priority
* Ensure that lights and electrical equipment will be switched off when not in use
* Purchase energy efficient equipment and products, avoiding like-for-like replacements so that our purchasing strategy is energy effective
* Manage our water use to meet good practice measures for office premises

**Office Supplies**

* Minimise the use of paper in our offices and purchase recycled/recyclable, eco-friendly office supplies
* Reduce packaging by working with our suppliers to minimise unnecessary materials and use take-back schemes as far as possible
* Evaluate the environmental impact of any new products we intend to purchase, selecting ethical products with a high recycled content that are fully recyclable
* Favour more environmentally friendly and resource efficient products wherever possible
* Re-use and recycle waste materials as far as possible, working with our suppliers to use take-back schemes where practicable to help support an effective circular economy

**Travel and transport**

* Reducing the need to travel as far as practicable, promoting alternatives such as email or video/phone conferencing
* Encouraging staff to use low carbon methods of travel such as rail services for long distance journeys where practical
* Encouraging and supporting staff to use the Cycle to Work Scheme
* Encouraging our members, committees and others for whom the BES is reimbursing expenses to report their carbon travel and subsistence emissions generated whilst undertaking work for BES
* Working with our event team, providers and venues to promote travel to and from our events using low carbon forms of travel

**Member events and catering**

* Using global good practice guidance to help us make our member events sustainable, especially in terms of ecological impact mitigation
* Working closely with our events management advisers and venues to reduce waste arisings, reduce the carbon impact of our events and to favour and celebrate local, sustainable produce and products
* Actively seeking Life Cycle Assessment information on products used for our events, particularly beverages and foodstuffs. This is an ongoing process that we are managing within our Environmental Management Systems to secure continuous improvements and transparency

**Maintenance and Cleaning**

* Cleaning materials used on our premises are environmentally friendly
* Materials, furniture, fixtures and flooring used in office refurbishment are resource efficient and environmentally friendly and – where possible – part of the circular economy

**Culture**

* We involve staff, our members and our suppliers in the implementation of this policy, for greater commitment and improved environmental performance
* We update this policy at least annually in consultation with staff and others as necessary
* We provide staff with relevant training
* We are working with suppliers, contractors and sub-contractors to improve their environmental performance
* We try to use local labour and materials where available to reduce environmental impacts and to help the local business community where we are based and where we hold member events

**Monitoring and reporting**

* We will appoint an environmental management lead within the BES secretariat and a working group to implement, monitor and report on our environmental management systems
* We will record relevant data centrally and anonymously, using this to produce an annual report that shows our progress in limiting our environmental impact
* We will communicate our progress to our members through appropriate channels and use their feedback to inform longer term planning