

Environmental Sustainability Policy

1. Introduction

This policy sets out Global Canopy's approach and commitments to measure, understand, and act to reduce our environmental footprint. We are committed to continually improving the organisation's environmental performance and ensuring that our operations align with our mission to drive action for a deforestation-free and nature-positive future.

To achieve this, we must reduce our emissions, resource consumption and waste by embedding environmental considerations into our decision-making processes. This includes planning, development and implementation across all areas of our work. We will encourage and support staff, management and governance boards to adopt environmentally sustainable practices, whether in the office, at home, or during travel, to foster an organisational culture that prioritises the lowest possible environmental impact.

2. Scope and purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that we:

- expand our commitment to a "do no harm" approach to environmental protection
- fulfil our environmental obligations by setting and meeting ambitious sustainability goals
- embed environmental sustainability principles in all areas of work, from internal operations to external partnerships and advocacy

This policy applies to all Global Canopy staff worldwide, including governance and management board members, and we expect contractors to adhere to these principles. We will also champion these principles with our partners and third parties, integrating sustainability considerations into our procurement and partnership processes. While this policy primarily covers our operational footprint, we are working in parallel on environmental sustainability principles for project design and delivery related to our data, platforms and outreach. This policy will be included in trustee and staff inductions. Compliance with this policy will be confirmed through signing the employment contract.

We commit to:

- minimising our carbon footprint and environmental impact
- acting in line with climate-related duties and expectations set out by the UK Charity Commission
- integrating environmental sustainability into decision-making across governance, operations and programme delivery.

3. Key policy areas

Global Canopy is committed to understanding and reducing our environmental impact. In order to ensure that our programmes and advocacy align with the 'do no harm' principle, we have identified five key policy areas where we can integrate policies to actively minimise environmental harm and integrate environmental sustainability considerations into all aspects of our work.

3.1 Energy and water

Global Canopy seeks to minimise our direct operational footprint where possible. While energy and water consumption is necessary to run our offices, we are committed to ensuring this use is efficient and responsible. To reduce our energy and water use, Global Canopy commits to:

- maintain our procurement of 100% renewable electricity for all offices where we control the supply (for example, through suppliers like Octopus Energy)¹
- enhance energy efficiency by promoting conscious energy use, such as systematically turning off lights, computers, screens and plugs when not in use
- reduce water usage by promoting efficient water management, ensuring taps are turned off properly, running dishwashers only when full and adopting other best practices to minimise waste water
- avoid fossil fuel-based heating systems in future upgrades or changes of premises.

3.2 Procurement

Global Canopy limits procurement of goods and services where possible. Where procurement is necessary, it is to ensure the continued running and success of our programmes and the impact and wellbeing of our team. The following principles are integrated into all purchases and service contracts:

- prioritise using local, sustainable, and ethical suppliers and services (via our Supplier Sustainability & Provenance Criteria)
- prioritise products with credible social and environmental certifications as one aspect of how we assess suppliers we buy from
- avoid single-use plastic and high-carbon items where alternatives exist.

3.3 Waste

Global Canopy actively seeks to minimise waste production. While our operations will generate some waste, we are committed to reducing this at the source and ensuring its responsible management and disposal. In order to minimise waste we:

¹ Current Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) certification for the 2024/25 period has been secured from Octopus Energy, and is held on file by the Organisational Effectiveness team.

- provide segregated bins for recycling, composting, and general waste
- commit to introducing an improved waste management communication campaign, to ensure proper disposal
- ensure 100% of office print paper is recycled or FSC certified, and actively work with cleaning providers to transition hygiene paper products to sustainable sources
- ensure all electronic waste (e-waste) is collected and disposed of responsibly and in compliance with Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations, using a certified supplier.

3.4 Travel

Global Canopy limits non-essential travel where possible. Where travel is necessary to deliver our programmes and mission, we are committed to managing its environmental impact. To minimise our travel emissions, Global Canopy commits to:

- prioritise remote external meetings, in line with our hybrid-first approach
- Avoid domestic flights in the UK and prioritise rail travel for domestic and European journeys where feasible, balancing cost, door-to-door journey time and carbon impact
- select the most direct route possible for unavoidable flights, balancing cost, logistics and carrier carbon impact where data is available
- favour accommodation that is accessible by public transport and can demonstrate a clear commitment to environmental sustainability (for example through a public policy or certification)
- promote active or public transport for employee commuting, where feasible.

3.5 Events and outreach

Global Canopy carefully considers the necessity of our events. Where in-person events are necessary to deliver our mission and outreach, they must reflect our core values. To ensure our event and outreach operations are as environmentally sustainable as possible, Global Canopy commits to:

- Strictly avoid production and use of any non-recyclable single-use plastics, and strive to avoid the use of unnecessary handouts, flyers and other printed event materials.
- Apply our Venue Sustainability Assessment Criteria to all events where we hold decision-making control. Preference will be given to those that can demonstrate a commitment to sustainability practices, (for example energy use and waste management) and certifications (for example ISO 14001).
- When working with partner organisations who lead on event delivery, we will advocate for the adoption of these sustainability principles and encourage open

dialogue to align practices, while recognising that we may not always have full control over procurement decisions.

- Hold events in locations accessible by foot, cycle and public transport where possible, and strongly encourage event attendance to travel by sustainable means.
- Provide catering designed to minimise our carbon footprint and align with our deforestation-free values. We will:
 - carefully select and engage with our suppliers on their sourcing and production, prioritising working with small scale, local suppliers as far as possible
 - select the menu combination with the lowest possible environmental footprint, prioritising low-impact options in particular, plant-based or locally sourced ingredients – over high-impact items such as red meat or intensive dairy
 - minimise food waste by operating our *Managing Event Attendance and Food Waste* internal guidance document.

4. Monitoring and Reporting

In year 1, we will aim to calculate scope 1 and 2 emissions,² committing to calculating these annually and monitoring usage on a monthly basis where possible.

For scope 3,³ in year 1, we will scope and monitor activities under the key policy areas. In year 2, we will choose priority, higher-impact categories to include in our overall carbon calculations.

We will monitor and report progress internally and externally through the most appropriate means. We will assess the feasibility of adopting a formal carbon tracking tool.⁴

² Scope 1: direct emissions from sources that we own or control directly. For Global Canopy, this primarily refers to gas combustion for hot water and heating in our offices. Scope 2: indirect emissions from the generation of the energy we purchase.

³ Scope 3: all other emissions that occur in our value chain, such as business travel, procurement of goods and services, waste disposal and employee commuting.

⁴ We recognise that digital activities, including the use of artificial intelligence (AI), have an energy and water footprint. This is an area of active internal review, and we will reference our forthcoming organisational statement on AI in the next version of this policy.

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually. Specific environmental sustainability targets may be set and reviewed each year.

Policy owner: FOE Board

Date signed by Board: 18/12/2025

Last reviewed: 18/12/2025