

Our sustainability and environmental impact plan 2019/20

Climate change, environmental degradation and species loss are the biggest existential threats to humanity. BASW is committed to recognising and tackling the climate emergency and lending weight to collective effort at national and global levels, as social workers and as an organisation.

BASW is committed to reduce waste – environmental, financial and human - improving use of sustainable resources and protecting the environment. Valuing and treasuring resources and people are part of our social work values and ethics.

To achieve our aims, we will have clear plans and create a positive, motivated culture around this across the association.

We will report material, measurable progress to our members and the public and evidence changes we are making.

We will:

1. Support UK-wide and international efforts to promote climate and environmental justice

We will:

- a. Support campaigns and protest in the UK and internationally
- b. Use our influence, connections and platforms to speak out on climate change and environmental damage
- c. Help social workers understand and get involved in this vital work and make a difference
- d. Promote understanding and action on the impact of climate change and environmental damage on people across the world particularly the poorest and most marginalised
- e. Support those directly harmed by climate change and environmental damage now, in the UK and abroad

2. Reduce our direct and indirect environmental impact

We will:

- a) Promote sustainability and environmental awareness, and the role of social workers
- b) Promote and monitor per capita reduction in travel, particularly car and flight travel, by members and staff
- c) Optimise remote communications (while taking account of the embedded energy requirements of this) including effective use of skype and teleconferencing and support members and staff to use remote working effectively and confidently

- d) Reduce and work to eliminate single use plastics and general materials waste in our work places and activities. 'Green' the courtyard with (shade loving!) plants in at BASW HQ, Waterloo Street, Birmingham
- e) Reduce the carbon output and waste (e.g. water waste) at BASW HQ at Waterloo Street, Birmingham and other premises and plan for further developments to develop Waterloo Street towards carbon neutrality
- f) Minimise commissioning of non-sustainable/non-environmentally friendly products e.g. non-plastics and non-recyclables in our marketing items
- g) Move to bio-degradable packaging for PSW magazine
- h) Undertake an environmental review of our investment portfolio
- i) Consider a 'carbon off-set' policy

3. Reduce costs, improve efficiency and save money

We will:

- a) Ensure all rolling contracts are routinely reviewed for value for money, ethics and environmental impact
- b) Adhere to good procurement processes to ensure competitive and ethical comparators are found for new products, supplies and services
- c) Ensure all major activities and events are planned forward effectively to ensure all costs are known in advance and cost savings are identified
- d) Account for hidden staff and member costs in all activities to reduce overworking, protect wellbeing and enable deployment on priorities

4. Valuing the efforts of our people – members and staff

We will:

- a) Ensure our staff and members are supported to develop their talents and are supported to sustain and increase their contribution to the organisation
- b) Implement the Staff Care policy and aim to increase wellbeing and productivity
- c) Taking a 'sustainability' and valuing people approach to member retention and customer service