

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

SCHA recognises and values the environment, and we strive for sustainable outcomes from all our programmes of work. At the same time, we understand the challenges of sustainability in rural and remote places, typically involving significant travel distances.

We are aware of the important role community heritage can have in affecting cultural changes in attitudes towards the environment and climate change.

This document sets out SCHA's environmental policy in relation to the services it delivers and in organisational terms.

TRAVEL

Concerns around the sustainability of travel are central to all that we do.

Staff & Board Travel

- We encourage meetings to be held virtually wherever possible – and otherwise at venues closest to the majority of attendees
- Where feasible for SCHA staff and board, more than one physical meeting will be carried out in a single day in the same location
- We encourage the use of public transport and consider accessibility to public transport in agreeing the location of regional meetings and events
- We encourage car sharing wherever possible
- When involving regional membership we use location tour plans to limit carbon footprint of SCHA staff and board members
- We encourage membership and project partners to support the SCHA environmental policy
- We connect with other Scottish rural meetings and events, whenever possible, to limit necessity of repeat travel

Members Travel

Members are encouraged to travel by public transport where possible, or to car share, when attending SCHA events.

PRINTING

We aspire to be a digital-first organisation, however we recognise that printed materials are at times necessary in order to be inclusive.

Publicity and Events

- We have a minimal-paper policy for all events run by SCHA: staff and Board Members are encouraged to print only when necessary, and papers for events will be shared digitally with all attendees either in advance or shortly after the events.
- Where printing is arranged by SCHA, preference will be given to suppliers who print on recycled paper (or, failing that, paper from environmentally sustainable sources).

- Membership contact is encouraged using email, the website and linking into documents via the SCHA digital office, in preference to hard copy, and. social media platforms will be used for feedback, as appropriate

ENERGY

Our commissioned staff team and board members work remotely, using a combination of home offices, co-working spaces and meeting places. We do not have direct control over energy use in these work spaces, or in the venues used by our membership, however we advocate for improved efficiency in all that we do.

WASTE

We do not have direct control over waste disposal in our co-working spaces or the venues used by our membership and project partners, however we advocate for improved efficiency in all that we do.

Recycling Facilities – Training & Advice

- We provide recycling facilities at our events, in order to encourage best practice.
Future Actions/Ideas:
- We encourage staff and Board members to separate waste in their home offices.

Policy Agreed	2 nd April 2021
Review Date	July 2021