

# Environmental Policy

Written by Chris Tyrrell, Event Facilities Manager, The Veterans Charity



## Policy Statement

The Veterans Charity was founded in 2008 and is registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee under number 6484880 and as a registered charity under number 1123149. The Veterans Charity ensures that all activities carried out by the charity comply with all relevant environmental legislation. The charity is acutely aware of the environmental aspects and potential impacts of standard operations and specific events. It is the charity's prerogative to reduce its carbon footprint and we aim to continuously improve our environmental performance through analysis of our events. This is also done through providing support through training and awareness as well as involvement of all management, volunteers and any other interested parties. In recognition of this, we have implemented guidelines to be considered through standard charity operations and event planning / operations.

## Scope

This policy is targeted primarily on the planning and operation of events, however, will provide the guidelines to be followed by all those involved in the charity's standard operations and fundraising commitments.

## Objectives

Reducing The Veterans Charity's ecological footprint, and minimising impacts on the environment by incorporating the principles of ecologically sustainable development into event planning, management and implementation.

Applying sustainability principles to the purchasing and procurement of goods and services for events, wherever possible.

Implementing waste avoidance strategies, maximising resource recovery for events and providing clear procedures for the correct disposal of waste where necessary.

Implementing efficiency measures to reduce water and energy consumption before, during and after events.

Enhancing environmental awareness and fostering environmentally responsible behaviour in all volunteers to allow the charity to organise, deliver or participate in a sustainable event.

Striving for ongoing improvement in environmental.

## Related Legislation

### Environmental Protection Act 1990

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) is an [Act](#) of the [Parliament of the United Kingdom](#) that as of 2008 defines, within [England and Wales](#) and [Scotland](#), the fundamental structure and authority for [waste management](#) and control of [emissions](#) into the [environment](#).

### Environment Act 1995

The Environment Act 1995 passed under the ministerial tutelage of [John Gummer](#), is a [United Kingdom Act of Parliament](#) which created a number of new agencies and set new standards for environmental management.

### Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 is an [Act of Parliament](#) in the [United Kingdom](#) implemented to comply with European Council [Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds](#). In short, the act gives protection to native species (especially those at threat), controls the release of non-native species, enhances the protection of [Sites of Special Scientific Interest](#) and builds upon the rights of way rules in the [National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949](#). The Act is split into 4 parts covering 74 sections; it also includes 17 schedules.

## Considerations

Sustainability principles should be considered and where possible, utilized during pre-event planning. This will enable event staff to incorporate sustainability into event planning, contract management, procurement and promotion prior to an event.

Secondly, event Implementation of designed procedures and managing the planned activities will ensure compliance with the charity's Environmental Strategic Policy.

The following should be considered, and actions incorporated, where applicable, into the planning, management and implementation of all events within the scope of this Policy:

Waste avoidance and minimisation

Waste Management Plan

Resource recovery (reuse, recycling)

Energy conservation

Air quality

Water conservation

Animal welfare/ethics

Sustainable purchasing (e.g. sustainable products/services)

Economic considerations (e.g. local stakeholders, local products, value for money)

## **Event Waste Management Plan**

A waste management plan must be developed for any event with a predicted attendance greater than 50 participants and staff. This would list the types of waste, locations, quantities as well as the disposal routes and locations. By utilising this plan, it would enable a clear procedure for a quite often overlooked process.

### **Mandatory Inclusions**

The Mandatory Inclusions must be complied and implemented with all events and operations conducted by The Veterans Charity, wherever possible.

Cups, plates and napkins purchased, used and distributed at an event must be made from recycled/recyclable /reusable/biodegradable and/or compostable materials.

Plastic bags are not to be used and/or given away during events. Alternative products should be used/provided – Waste disposal bags are NOT included in this statement.

Balloons are not to be used on any charity operation, regardless of size and nature due to the potential for environmental impact and varying other mitigating standards held by the charity.

Printer / Toner cartridges can only be disposed of through a recognised facility due to the nature of its components and contents.

Batteries of all types must be held onto until able to be disposed of through a recognised facility due to the hazardous nature of its contents. For more information please see the appropriate Material Safety Data Sheet for the specific component.

### **Preferred Alternatives**

Where possible, it is encouraged to consider alternatives for products such as tea, coffee, hot chocolate or even chocolate. An alternative would be the use of Fair Trade or associated products.

Another aspect would be water consumption and event participants as well as volunteers are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles to an event. This would enable us to utilise alternative water sources in lieu of giving away or selling plastic water bottles.

Where there are valid reasons for alternatives not to be used (i.e. specific sporting events, safety reasons), the event organisers must ensure that sufficient recycling bin facilities and adequate signage is provided for the appropriate disposal of plastic water bottles.

### **Compliance**

Failure to comply with this Policy and the approved waste Management Plan may result in the exclusion from the any future events hosted by The Veterans Charity.

### **Responsibility**

The Chief Executive Officer of The Veterans Charity will be responsible for reviewing this Policy and with the Event Facilities Manager, they are responsible for the monitoring of compliance and environmental performance in accordance with the Policy.

All Management and Volunteers will be responsible for monitoring compliance on the day of the event, wherever possible.

All relevant volunteers and external support responsible for planning, managing and implementing events and meetings must be aware of and adhere to this Policy.