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In Place of War Environmental Policy 2024

At In Place of War, we recognise the urgent need to address environmental responsibility and climate change in our work. [People living in places of conflict are at risk of higher vulnerability and exposure to environmental breakdown and climate hazards](#). It is therefore essential that as an organisation dedicated to using creativity in places of conflict as a tool for positive change, we commit to integrating environmental sustainability into all aspects of our operations, projects, and decision-making processes.

This 10 point environmental policy for 2024 represents our commitment to environmental sustainability and our dedication to creating a positive impact on the environment. We recognize that our journey towards a more sustainable future will be ongoing and adaptive. By adhering to the below principles, we aim to contribute to a liveable future for current and unborn generations.

We commit to reviewing and updating our environmental policy, at a minimum, on an annual basis to stay aligned with evolving best practices and goals.

1. Net Zero Commitment and Action Plan:

Whilst we acknowledge the importance of setting a [Net Zero](#) target, we are deciding not to do so until we better understand the environmental impact of our organisation. Over the next year, we will actively work to understand and define our path toward achieving Net Zero emissions through environmental impact reporting and evaluating.

We recognize that as an organisation, our carbon emissions are predominantly [‘Scope 3’](#) which are typically more difficult to address. We hope that by tracking our impact over the next year, we can move towards developing a meaningful and data driven environmental action plan that will aim towards a realistic and ambitious Net Zero target. This learning will, in turn, inform our 2025 Environmental Policy.

2. Tracking and Gathering Environmental Impact Data:

We are committed to tracking and gathering data on our environmental impact and carbon emissions ([CO2e](#)) resulting from our projects and company operations. This will be embedded across all projects by the end of 2024.



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This will include a particular focus on our travel and freight by aviation. Whilst aviation is often necessary due to the international nature of our organisation, we are aware that it has a [high impact](#) and therefore are committed to reducing that impact.

Other areas of tracking and gathering data will include energy use, water use, travel, waste, construction.

3. Carbon Budgeting:

We are committed to working towards implementing [carbon budgets](#) in all our projects and ensuring that a comprehensive environmental report is produced for every project, regardless of size. This will be implemented across 2024 and be standard practice across all projects by the end of 2024.

4. Integrating Environmental Considerations:

We are committing to giving the environment a voice and space in all current and future projects. This will include having an environmental point on the agenda at the outset of every project which is monitored throughout and ensuring representation of environmental and climate concerns on our board of trustees.

We are committed to redefining our company pillars to include climate change and environmental responsibility as a foundational element that underpins all our organisational goals and activities.

5. Partnerships & Due Diligence:

We are committed to improving the definitions and parameters of our decision-making processes regarding the organisations, partners, and suppliers we work with, ensuring that their green credentials align with our environmental values. We will actively seek partnerships that share our commitment to sustainability, and offer advice and support to those who do not currently, but wish to, align with our environmental values.

We also understand that we need to be flexible. The communities we work with are located across the world spanning many contexts. They are often subject to a number of challenging factors including conflict, lack of support and funding, poverty, fragility and the impacts of climate change. We need to be sensitive to their local needs and cultural values.



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6. Divestment from Fossil Fuels:

We will not accept funding linked to the fossil fuel industry, and we will ensure that our pension investments are free from fossil fuel holdings. We review funding that is offered and ensure it meets this criteria.

7. Offsetting Impact:

We are committed to developing an approach towards [offsetting](#) (or [insetting](#)) our environmental impact that is reliable and meaningful. This may consider a more creative and targeted approach rather than simply using an existing carbon offsetting programme. This might include supporting the communities in the Global South that we work with to consider more sustainable approaches etc.

8. Climate Learning and Staff Incentives:

We commit that all staff members will be granted one 'Climate Learning Day' per year to enhance their understanding of environmental issues and sustainability. We are also committed to a minimum of the majority of our core team being certified as [carbon literate](#). We have already had the majority of our team certified as carbon literate.

We are committed to encouraging and supporting our core staff to take greener actions in their professional and personal lives through learning, environmental toolkits, and the development of schemes of incentivizing, such as recognition and rewards for sustainable practice.

9. Plant-Based Catering:

We will prioritise a minimum of majority plant-based catering in our events and activities to reduce our carbon footprint.

10. Cultural and Access Needs:

While maintaining a determined ambition for progress in our environmental initiatives, we will always be considerate and understanding of the nuances of cultural and access needs. We are therefore committed to ensuring that our environmental activities do not become exclusionary.



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Further Reading:

- Overseas Development Institute: The humanitarian impact of combined conflict, climate and environmental risks ([read here](#))
- The Carbon Clock: a real time look at how much of the global carbon budget is remaining ([view here](#))