

Updated July 2025



## HOME-START WATFORD & THREE RIVERS Environmental Policy

### Policy Statement

As a small organisation Home-Start Watford & Three Rivers are committed to social responsibility, we recognise our role in reducing our environmental impact. Although we do not own the premises we operate from, we are committed to promoting sustainable practices within our control and encouraging our partners to do the same.

Home-Start Watford & Three Rivers believes that climate change affects everybody, but disproportionately the poor and vulnerable. As a charity we have a responsibility to support those people by minimising our environmental impact and striving to use our resources in a way which supports and promotes positive action for the environment. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and continually improving our environmental performance as an integral and fundamental part of our business strategy and operating methods.

### Key principles

We will assess the impact on the environment of any new project or work we undertake, and environmental impact will form a key part of developing our strategic action plan. We recognise that that the best option environmentally may not always be the cheapest option, and we will give environmental consideration a strong weighting in making decisions that pitch environmental impact against cost, affirming that a more expensive option with less environmental impact may be the more responsible use of our funds.

Formatted: Not Highlight

We aim, wherever practical, to go beyond the basic requirements of current environmental legislation and codes of practice to ensure that we minimise our negative impact on the environment, and where possible contribute to making a positive difference.

### What we will do

#### 1) Commitments and targets

- 1.1) HSWTR, wherever practical, aims to:
  - reduce waste;
  - reduce business, commuting and other mileage;
- 1.2) To reduce waste we will, wherever practical:
  - give preference to suppliers who minimise packaging;
  - reduce our use of paper (including leaflets and printed materials);
  - reduce our use of single use items such as plates, cups, cutlery etc;
  - reduce waste sent to landfill;

Updated July 2025

- maximise the proportion of our waste sent for recycling.

1.3) Aim to reduce business and other mileage, wherever practical, we will:

- continue to offer staff opportunities to work from home where practicable.
- have an appropriate balance of virtual and face-to-face meetings.
- seek to work with local suppliers and encourage the use of local supply chains.

2) Leadership and communication

We will:

- seek expert guidance and support to improve practice.
- take part in networks and forums to share learning and encourage collaboration.
- promote good practice through our website, social media, networks and partnerships.
- Take sustainability into account when planning new projects, bids, and services.
- This policy will be reviewed periodically in line with our model policy table, all staff, volunteers, and trustees are expected to uphold this policy and contribute to its aims.

Awareness and Engagement

- Encourage staff and volunteers to share ideas and take responsibility for eco-friendly behaviours.
- Provide information and tips on sustainability through internal communications.
- Involve families and communities in environmentally focused events or activities when relevant to our service.

Review Date	Reviewed By	Adopted	Comments
		July Board meeting	