

FamilyCare

Healing pasts • Building futures



Environmental Policy

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Reviewed: July 2025

Date of Next Review: July 2026



Policy

This policy is guided by relevant environmental legislation including the Environment Act 2021 and the Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended). Family Care Group and its senior management, recognise that its operations will have, in some way, an impact upon the environment in which it operates. This impact may be recognisable in many aspects of its operations, but certainly will be in relation to the design, manufacture and delivery of its products and services, the resources it consumes in achieving its business goals and objectives, and the manner in which it handles its waste and by-products.

The Home/School/Office commits to limit, as far as is practicable, the harmful effects that its operations may have upon the environment, and to manage its operations with a view to continuous improvements in environmental performance and the prevention of pollution.

Procedure

Audit, Targets and Recognisable Improvement

The Home/School/Office accepts that in order for the subject and the goals/objectives to be taken seriously, there needs to be:

- a) Recognition from senior management;
- b) Annual audit of the home's key areas of environmental impact;
- c) Achievable targets for improvement.

The creation and distribution of this formal policy will assist in reinforcing the environmental messages contained within it and the commitment that senior management of the home have towards its aims and objectives.

An annual audit of environmental performance will examine the key areas where the home has some impact and where targets for improvement can be established and monitored, and where the home has an obligation in complying with applicable laws and regulations.



Employee Contribution, Recognition and Involvement

Suggestions for improved and sustainable improvements in environmental performance will have greater impact where employees buy into the purpose of an Environmental Policy, understand its importance, and are motivated towards achieving the goals and objectives which have been established. Without employee involvement, then improvements may not happen, or may be significantly impaired.

Employees will, therefore, through local initiatives, be:

- a) Invited to examine the key areas of environmental impact within the home (and suggest additions, where appropriate);
- b) Asked to identify and contribute ways in which improvements can be made;
- c) Consulted as to how recognition may be given, annually, either to departments, or individuals, at a local level, for their achievements in improving environmental performance.

All local awards will receive automatic nomination to the home's annual "Excellence in Environmental Improvement" award, given to the individual, department or section of the home whose contribution towards improvements in environmental performance is of significant merit.

Key Areas of Environmental Impact

The Home/School/Office has established the following key areas of environmental impact over which it has some control, and upon which it is able to measure improvements in performance. All employees of the home are invited, at any time, to submit items for addition to the list. However there must be scope for measurable improvement in what we do. Locally, employees will be invited to contribute to the debate as to how improvements may be made.

This information will be fed, centrally, to senior management, who will be responsible for drawing up the home's Annual Performance Improvement targets.

Research and Development

The Home/School/Office accepts a unique responsibility to consider the environmental impacts of its products from all stages of their life cycle, from design, to manufacturing, customer use, and finally disposal.

Energy use

The Home/School/Office will use environmentally safe and sustainable energy resources to meet its needs, and will invest in improved energy efficiency of the products it uses and sells.

Resource Consumption

The Home/School/Office will seek to address its impact upon the environment through the adoption of a sustainable procurement policy. The home will conserve resources through efficient use and careful planning.

Recycling

The Home/School/Office maintains that a primary part of its corporate environmental strategy is sustainable waste management and as such recognises its responsibilities to recycle materials wherever possible.

Waste Disposal

The Home/School/Office will minimise waste, especially hazardous waste, and whenever possible recycle materials. The home will dispose of all waste through safe and responsible methods.

The Supply Chain

The Home/School/Office will work with its suppliers to ensure that they recognise and reduce the environmental impact of their products and their transportation.

Transportation

Through co-ordinating route planning and delivery schedules, and the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles, the home seeks to realise the dual benefits of reduced fuel consumption and lower exhaust emissions.

References to Legislation and Quality Standards

Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015

Regulation 13

Quality Standard

Leadership and Management

