



Southeast Communities Rail Partnership CIC



SCRP 5

Policy Title: Environmental/sustainability

Introduction

Southeast Communities Rail Partnership (SCRP) works to connect communities and the railway across Sussex, Kent, Berkshire, parts of Hampshire and Surrey. Community Rail is a nationwide movement that puts local stations into the heart of the community.

SCRP recognise that the climate is changing at an increasing rate due to human activity and that we all hold a responsibility to reduce our impact on the planet through our organisational and personal activities.

By the very nature of the work we do, SCRPs are responsible for reducing the carbon impact of vehicle travel by encouraging and facilitating sustainable travel for individuals, community groups and businesses

SCRP has committed to review the way we work to consider the environment in every aspect of the way that we work and to encourage our employees, volunteers, partners, and stakeholders to do the same.

The policy below outlines the ways we will embed the environment into all aspects of the work we do. The policy also outlines how we will monitor these activities to ensure that we meet these commitments and who will hold responsibility for each of the environmental actions/commitments. When staff are mentioned this refers to Directors, Partners, employees, volunteers, and where appropriate users of Partnership services.

Our own estate

Governance

This environmental policy will be publicly available on our webpage and will be made available to all staff, board members and volunteers. This is a live policy, and all staff will be encouraged to contribute new ideas that will have an environmental benefit.

We will designate an Environmental Champion within the staff team who is responsible for ensuring all staff and volunteers are aware of their environmental duties within SCRPs and that appropriate monitoring is undertaken. Our present environmental champion for the CIC Board is Director Mike Goodman. Our staff champion is Catherine Simmons.

Our buildings and operations



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All staff will be responsible for ensuring that energy and water are used efficiently in SCRP buildings. This will include ensuring that lights and equipment are turned off when not in use.

We will carry out a yearly environmental audit of our offices and will identify energy and water saving measures which can be installed. This could include energy efficient lighting, heating and cooling controls, modernising IT equipment, water efficiency measures, such as water saving taps.

We will significantly reduce our use of printed materials. We will ensure that all paper used is recycled. Printers will be set to black and white printing as standard.

We will recycle all paper and where practicable, all other office waste products, including ink/toner cartridges, mobile phones, and other office equipment.

We will endeavour to stop using all single use plastic products (such as plastic cups) within our offices.

Staff travel

We will strongly encourage the use of public transport and low or zero emission travel by staff wherever practicable.

We will offer incentives for staff to travel in sustainable ways including participation in the tax-free bike scheme and supporting programmes such as Active Access for Growth and its replacement.

We will reduce the need to travel by utilising virtual meeting technologies such as Teams & Zoom where appropriate

Events

We will take reasonable steps that the environmental impacts of our events are as low as possible.

We will limit the use of single use plastics at our events.

We will ensure that wherever possible all food and drink that are served at events include vegetarian, fair trade and where possible be locally sourced and seasonal.

Wherever possible we will ensure that waste produced from our events will be re-used or recycled.

Our work with railway station enhancements and renovations



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We will seek work our station partners to ensure that where possible, building materials used for station enhancement and/or renovations are recycled materials.

We encourage waste materials produced from railway renovations will be re-used or recycled where possible.

We will prioritise use of materials from local providers to minimise the impact of transportation.

We will encourage planting of shrubs at stations to sequester carbon and improve local air quality.

We will work with station partners so that vegetation planted will be able to adapt to a changing climate and will be drought tolerant.

Where station partners have a garden, we will encourage composters or food waste digesters to be installed, which together with a poster campaign will help divert organic materials from landfills reducing the emission of methane into the environment.

We will work with station partners to support their use of peat free compost.

We will work with TOCS, station partners and water companies to:

- i) Encourage the installation of rain water harvesting measures such as water butts, to reduce the use of mains water consumption;
- ii) Encourage stations to be part of the 'water refill' pledge where there is no conflict with a commercial outlet.

Monitoring

We will report on how well we have achieved our environmental aims and review the policy at least once a year. We will include projects related to our environmental policy in our Line Action Plans.



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Status	Draft agreed by	Considered by Board	Final version approved	Review
Date	Board	Nov 19	Jan 20	Annual
Date Reviewed	Reviewed By	Comments		
August 2020	Fiona Morton	Re formatted and name change		
June 2021	Fiona Morton & Team	Updated draft for Board		
July 2021	SCRP Board	Amendments approved		