



## Environmental Policy

### Statement of Intent

AFA Fostering is an independent Fostering Agency, established in 2010. We exist to provide local, high-quality care within family homes for children and young people. Ultimately, we want to support those in our care to live happy and fulfilling lives and to achieve their full potential.

An integral part of our business and ethos is to respect the environmental impact we have. We aim to do this directly through our business practices and indirectly by training and educating our various stakeholders to assist them to make a practical difference to the environment.

### AFA's Aims

In order to manage our activities and services with consideration for the environment, AFA will:

- Set targets and objectives for improvement of our environmental performance, demonstrating our commitment to this by reviewing these regularly.
- Manage and monitor the most significant environmental aspects of the business, aiming to minimise the pollution impact arising from travel and resource use, as well as preventing, minimising and controlling pollution through the practical application of waste/resource minimisation programs.
- Comply with all relevant environmental Legislation and guidance.
- Provide a high quality, efficient service to all Foster Parents and customers, enabling them, as well as staff, to assist AFA's environmentally responsible practices via training and information.

### AFA's Plan

AFA will undertake the following steps:

1. Efficiently use water and energy by;
  - a) Ensuring that electronic devices are set to energy saving mode where possible and that, as relevant, they are turned off when not in use.
  - b) Only using the water that we need.
  - c) Considering any ways that we can adapt our office base to include better use of resources.
2. Ensure the appropriate disposal of waste, and further minimising such by:
  - a) Continuing to take steps in the implementation of our plan to be 'paper-free', both within our office and where staff are home based, continuing to provide staff with equipment i.e., second screens, to support further reduction in printing.
  - b) Recycling as far as is possible, various items from electronic devices to paper cups.
  - c) Encouraging recycling in our office by providing facilities to actively do so, using recycling waste collection services.

3. Purchasing responsibly by:
  - a) Sourcing environmentally superior products such as recycled goods, where practicable to do so, from suppliers who themselves are committed to high standard environmental practices.
4. Further minimising our impact by:
  - a) Using non-toxic, cruelty free and/or recycled goods where possible.
5. Influencing others by:
  - a) Providing education and training for staff and Foster Parents as appropriate, raising their awareness of environmental issues and supporting the role they take in implementing this policy.
  - b) Encouraging those linked to AFA to share their environmental practices with others
  - c) Engaging children in these commitments and plans, as detailed in Appendix 1.

### Connected Policies or Guidance

Name of Policy / Guidance	Relevant for
Staff handbook	All staff
Office Policies and Processes	All staff
Statement of Purpose	All staff and Foster Parents

Updated September 2023

Version 1.1

### Appendix 1

AFA children were asked to write or draw about things that were important to the environment and to them:

use waterbutts. etc.  
 Turn off taps when not using it  
 Lights with motion sensors.  
 Only use recycled paper.  
 Have electric cars.  
 ? scheme? incentives.  
 Solar Phone chargers.  
 Bike to work.

I learnt about the seal 'frisbee' and why we shouldn't leave rubbish, on the beach it makes animals poorly, and they can die.

Bonfires are bad for the sky. It's pollution!







