



## **SCHOOL FOOD MATTERS**

Sustainability Policy

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As an environmental organisation, School Food Matters recognises that its activities and policies have the potential to harm the environment. We therefore aim to minimise all negative effects upon the environment through our activities, and use services that have a benign or positive effect upon the environment.

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### **Power – School Food Matters aims to:**

- Conserve energy where possible through purchasing energy efficient equipment, fixtures and fittings, turning off machines and equipment when not in use, and using energy saving settings on printers and computers;
  - Encourage the building owners to heat our office in the most efficient way and to use power from renewable, non-nuclear sources
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### **Water – School Food Matters aims to:**

- Encourage staff and volunteers to minimise water use by washing up crockery and kitchen equipment in batches using a bowl or only putting the dishwasher on when full and on an eco setting;
  - Encourage staff and volunteers to purchase equipment that minimises water use;
  - Encourage those responsible for the building to repair equipment/fittings that are wasting water as quickly as possible and to purchase equipment that minimises water use eg low flush toilets.
  - Always use tap water and never purchase water in plastic bottles. Not only does this reduce plastic waste and energy in manufacturing, it also reduces emissions from transportation of bottled water.
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### **Transport – School Food Matters aims to:**

- Encourage staff and others to travel by public transport, legs, or bicycle when travelling to and from the office or meetings;
  - Routinely send post by second-class mail. This saves money. It also saves on transport fuel use. Due to time constraints, first-class mail is often sent in vans that are not filled with their optimal load, hence creating additional journeys and wasting fuel. Second-class mail can be delayed long enough to ensure that the vans are filled to capacity.
  - Avoid using couriers or special delivery. This saves money. It also saves on transport fuel use, cutting down on single-use journeys.
  - Encourage car share and energy efficient/zero emission vehicles when no alternative exists.
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### **Waste – School Food Matters aims to minimise waste by:**

- Conserving resources eg by using electronic rather than printed versions of documents where possible;
  - Reusing resources eg by reusing envelopes and 'scrap' paper;
  - Recycling resources eg by recycling paper and printer cartridges;
  - Using 'long use' material, instead of one-use options, e.g. mugs rather than plastic cups for meetings.
  - Providing 'keep cups' to prevent waste from take-away coffee cups
  - **Banning plastic bags in the office!** If plastic bags are brought in, they must be taken home.
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### **Purchasing – School Food Matters aims to:**

- Purchase energy efficient equipment, which has the lowest negative effect on the environment where possible eg by buying solar powered calculators rather than battery operated ones;
  - Purchase recycled loo rolls, paper, cardboard, and other stationery;
  - Use recycled/second hand office equipment;
  - Purchase only sustainable food and drink.
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### **Other activities – School Food Matters aims to:**

- Consider and monitor the effects upon the environment of all its activities on a regular basis;
  - Minimise any negative effects where possible.
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