



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

SVP Environmental & Sustainability Policy Statement

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) recognises and accepts that concern for the environment is an integral and fundamental part of its Christian responsibility.

It takes inspiration from Catholic social responsibility and the words of Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, 'Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home (13)'.

The SVP have developed a policy that aims to set out our path in achieving our ambition in our common home. We understand that all our activities relating to the alleviation of poverty and disadvantage have environmental impacts and that we have a role to play in protecting the environment and God's creation.

The SVP aspires to continuously improve its sustainability through an ongoing programme to reduce, reuse or remove environmentally damaging activities and encourage activities that, where possible, improve or conserve the environment by:

- Minimising the use of all materials, supplies and energy, and, wherever possible, use renewable or recyclable materials and components.
- Taking the environment and sustainability into account in all service areas including (but not limited to) estates, procurement and management, transport and general service delivery through our shops, offices and support centres. to track and monitor progress towards significantly reduced carbon emissions by 2030.

| Find us at www.svp.org.uk
| Registered charity number 1053992



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- Monitoring, assessing, and reporting, on a continuous basis, where practical, the environmental impact of SVP's activities and compliance with this policy.
- Publishing our Environmental & Sustainability Policy and updating the Policy whenever necessary to reflect any positive changes in service delivery and good practice.
- Establishing aspirational key performance indicators (KPI's) that enable us to track and monitor progress towards significantly reduced carbon emissions by 2030.

'Human beings too are creatures of this world, enjoying a right to life and happiness, and endowed with unique dignity. So we cannot fail to consider the effects on people's lives of environmental deterioration, current models of development and the throwaway culture'

(Laudato Si`, 43)

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Environmental and Sustainability Impact Summary Statement

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The Board of Trustees are accountable for our Environmental & Sustainability Policy (ESP). The Executive team are responsible for the delivery of the policy and ensuring that our operations and programmes within the Society's strategic aims minimise our environmental footprint.

We commit to avoid adverse environmental impacts by:

- Setting SVP's environmental and sustainability strategic direction and embedding it into our culture.
- Creating an action plan to further the aims and achieve the benefits of this ESP and updating as necessary.
- Reporting on the ESP and progress annually in SVP's Reports and Accounts, Trustees Annual Report and on SVP's website.
- Communicating to, and encouraging, employees and volunteers to participate in, and contribute to initiatives which continuously improve SVP's environmental and sustainability approach.
- Ensuring SVP policies and practices are continuously updated to reflect the aims of this ESP or comply with any environmental legislative requirements.
- Ensuring SVP Employees and Volunteers are trained and comply with this ESP.

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