

*Providing hope and support for people impacted by domestic abuse and all forms of gendered violence. Life can be different.*

## Environmental & Sustainability Policy

<b>Audience</b>	All colleagues
<b>Owner</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Approval</b>	Board of Trustees
<b>Date Adopted</b>	July 2024
<b>Review Period</b>	3 Years
<b>Registered Charity No</b>	1034188
<b>Company No</b>	02794241
<b>Chair of Trustees Signature</b>	<i>C. E. Williams</i>

### Related Policies and Procedures:

Business Continuity Policy	Finance Controls Policy & Procedure	Procurement Policy
Client Management Policy	Grievance Policy & Procedure	Quality Assurance Policy
Colleague Handbook	Governance Handbook	Practitioner Factsheets – Accommodation
Comments, Complaints & Suggestions Policy	Health & Safety Policy	Risk Management Policy
Data Protection & Information Sharing Policy	Induction Policies & Procedures	
Disciplinary Policy & Procedure	Involvement & Participation Policy	
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Policy	On Call Policy	

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## Statement of Intent

Vale DAS commits to achieving the highest standards in environmental matters arising from our activities. We will:

### 1. Policy Commitment:

- Embed environmental responsibility into strategic planning and decision-making.
- Develop and refine our Environmental Management System to comply with legislation and prevent pollution.

### 2. Key Impact Areas:

- Energy use, raw material use, waste management, emissions, and utilities.
- Sustainable procurement and local community engagement.

### 3. Actions for Improvement:

- Conduct ongoing assessments of activities to identify areas for improvement.
- Train employees and encourage their involvement in sustainability efforts.
- Adopt environmentally sound transport strategies.
- Minimise health and safety risks associated with environmental impacts.

By implementing this policy, Vale DAS aims to lead by example, fostering a culture of sustainability while maintaining a safe, supportive, and empowering environment for all.

## Introduction

This policy integrates environmental and sustainability issues into Vale DAS's strategic decision-making processes, aligning with our vision to support individuals and families affected by domestic abuse. By fostering a sustainable operational environment, we aim to enhance the safety, comfort, and empowerment of survivors while minimising our environmental impact.

## Links with Legislation

- Clean Air Acts (1968, 1993)
- Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
- Climate Change Act 2008
- Energy Act 2010
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Future Generations Act 2016

- Other relevant national and local legislation.

## Our ECO Code

Our Eco Code serves as Vale DAS's environmental mission statement, committing us to becoming a greener, more sustainable organisation while supporting trauma recovery and wellbeing. We aim to:

- Provide facilities that promote safety, comfort, and sustainability.
- Engage survivors, staff, and volunteers in eco-friendly practices that empower individuals and strengthen community bonds.
- Translate our Eco Code into multiple languages to ensure accessibility for all service users.

## Our priorities

We are committed to:

1. Being as efficient as possible in energy use while maintaining a welcoming and calming environment.
2. Reducing waste and encouraging recycling across all operations.
3. Leveraging digital tools to minimise paper usage and administrative burdens.
4. Sourcing goods locally and sustainably.
5. Educating and empowering staff, volunteers, and service users to adopt environmentally conscious practices.
6. Designing trauma-informed, sustainable spaces that balance environmental goals with the needs of survivors.
7. Minimising office and transportation activities to reduce CO2 emissions.
8. Promoting community engagement in sustainability initiatives.
9. Incorporating environmental considerations into emergency preparedness and aligning these with our Business Continuity Policy.
10. Supporting a circular economy through reuse, refurbishment, and repurposing practices.

## Our ECO aims

To achieve our goals, we will:

- Comply with, and exceed where practicable, all applicable environmental legislation, regulations, and codes of practice.
- Integrate environmental considerations into strategic and operational decisions.
- Ensure all staff, volunteers, and service users are aware of and support our Environmental and Sustainability Policy.
- Monitor and continually improve environmental performance through clear objectives and annual reviews.
- Commit to minimal resource use and the prevention of pollution.

## Our Environmental and Sustainability Strategy

To deliver our policy, we will:

### 1. **Sustainable Procurement:**

- Purchase renewable, recyclable, or sustainably sourced equipment and supplies where feasible.
- Prioritise local suppliers that reflect the diversity of our community.

### 2. **Waste Reduction:**

- Minimise waste through reuse, recycling, and efficient use of materials.
- Regularly review waste management practices to identify improvements.

### 3. **Energy Efficiency:**

- Monitor and reduce energy consumption in all premises.
- Consider renewable energy options like solar or ground/air source heating.

### 4. **Education and Training:**

- Incorporate sustainability into staff and volunteer inductions and ongoing training.
- Offer workshops or activities for survivors, such as upcycling or gardening, to foster empowerment and community involvement.

### 5. **Awareness Campaigns:**

- Run regular campaigns to encourage sustainable behaviours among staff, volunteers, and service users.

### 6. **Trauma-Informed Practices:**

- Ensure all environmental changes respect the comfort and safety of survivors.
- Schedule disruptive activities (e.g., construction) thoughtfully to minimise stress.

### 7. **Digital Innovation:**

- Expand the use of secure digital platforms to reduce paper use and physical travel.

### 8. **Stakeholder Engagement:**

- Encourage suppliers, stakeholders, and community members to adopt sound environmental practices.

**9. Community Collaboration:**

- Partner with local environmental organisations to share best practices and amplify sustainability efforts.

**10. Green Transport:**

- Promote sustainable travel options, such as cycling, public transport, and car-sharing schemes, and explore incentives for staff and volunteers.

**11. Emergency Preparedness:**

- Develop and implement strategies for managing environmental risks (e.g., flooding, extreme weather) and link these strategies to our Business Continuity Policy.

**12. Circular Economy Practices:**

- Implement circular economy principles by prioritising reuse, refurbishment, and repurposing of materials and equipment wherever possible.