

SGI-UK Environmental and Sustainability Policy

At the heart of our philosophy are the interlocking Buddhist principles 'the oneness of self and the environment' ('esho funi' in Japanese) and respect for the dignity of life which are the basis for our approach to our relationship with the environment.

We are committed to sustainable development and the achievement of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. We see the issue of sustainability as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Concern for the environment is a fundamental part of this commitment and we aim to reduce the impact on the environment from our activities.

SGI-UK is a membership organisation with a small staff. This policy focusses in particular on our four centres, and the activities of our staff. We will also promote awareness and responsibility for the environment within our wider membership.

As staff of SGI-UK we will:

- Reduce the use of energy, water and other resources;
- Minimise waste by reduction, re-use and recycling methods;
- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations;
- Identify and provide appropriate training, advice and information for staff, trustees and volunteers and encourage them to develop new ideas and initiatives;
- Provide appropriate resources to meet the commitments of this policy; and
- Promote and encourage involvement in local environmental initiatives and schemes.

This action plan is available to all staff and has been drawn to their attention. It is also shared more widely with our membership on the noticeboards of our centres.

Key actions

In addition to the points above, SGI-UK will continue to:

- Source electricity from a supplier committed to renewable energy;
- Promote video conferencing in preference to face to face meetings;

- Encourage home working when appropriate, taking into consideration the benefits for staff of regular face to face meetings with colleagues and management;
- Consider how SGI-UK can reduce the amount of paper used, and check the source of all paper used;
- Identify opportunities to further reduce waste;
- Audit the use of PCs and electronic equipment at our centres, and ensure that all devices are shut down at the end of the day, unless there are justifiable reasons for not doing so;
- Investigate the most appropriate vehicles being used by staff and volunteers for activities, in particular at Taplow Court, and replace vehicles with electric models as soon as practicable;
- Purchase fair-trade and/or organic beverages and food;
- Improve environmental awareness among staff and develop green housekeeping issues, including using environmentally friendly cleaning products at our centres;
- Consider ISO 14001 accreditation.

Additional actions

- Commission reports on our buildings by the Carbon Trust and take as many of their recommendations as possible;
- Discourage air travel by SGI -UK staff and senior leaders unless there are justifiable reasons for such travel;
- Investigate carbon and greenhouse gas offsetting programmes.

Robert Harrap

SGI-UK General Director

Review Date: May 2021