



*Traidcraft*

# **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

**Date of Adoption: December 2005**

**Date of Review: December 2008**

# TRAIDCRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

## 1. Principles

Traidcraft's summary Foundation Principles states that Traidcraft will "*respect all people and the environment*" and that as an organisation we will "*promote responsible stewardship of the created environment, giving people access to resources, a share in decisions about them, and responsibility for their use.*" Traidcraft has a duty of stewardship to respect the integrity of God's creation and to act responsibly towards it.

People and the environment are inextricably linked and a healthy sustainable environment is vital for us all. The poor in developing countries and we in the UK depend on fertile soils, clean water and other environmental resources for our livelihoods and health. All of us will be affected by the implications of climate change.

Everyone and every organisation has an impact on the environment and Traidcraft is no exception. If we are to help build a future in which people live in harmony with their natural surroundings, then it is important that Traidcraft understands and endeavours to minimise the impact on the environment of its day-to-day operations. Traidcraft understands that sustainable development practices are the only long-term solution for alleviating poverty. In addition we have a responsibility to promote sustainable consumption practices.

Traidcraft's primary motivation is that it is a Christian response to poverty. We long to see a world freed from the scandal of poverty where trade is just, and individuals and communities can flourish. We recognise that there can be tensions between social and environmental objectives, in that the short term immediate needs of the poor may have to be balanced with longer term environmental sustainability.

As an organisation Traidcraft will strive to continually improve its environmental performance and share its own learning and knowledge, in this area, with others.

## 2. Scope

Every activity that Traidcraft engages in has an impact on the environment. Traidcraft endeavours to understand which of its activities has the most significant environmental impact and to focus its improvement activities on these areas. The policy applies equally to the activities of Traidcraft plc and to the activities of Traidcraft Exchange. Examples of the most significant areas of our impact are:

- The design and manufacturing processes used for goods sold by Traidcraft plc can affect the local environment through deforestation, inappropriate use of dyes or pesticides;
- The encouragement of sustainable agricultural practices;
- Use of "harmful" materials or high energy processes in the production of some of the items that Traidcraft plc sells;

- Transporting goods from developing countries to the UK and within the UK, contributes to global warming. So does staff travel overseas to work with producers and partners, or staff travel around the UK;
- Inappropriate packaging may use resources unnecessarily;
- The way we use energy, water, and paper at our sites in Gateshead and London.

### **3. Policy Aims**

We aim to achieve continuous improvements in the environmental impact of our activities by:

- Identifying which areas of our activities have the highest impact on our environmental footprint and taking positive steps to address these and minimise them.
- Compensating for our environmental footprint where we are unable to be environmentally neutral;
- Complying with the requirements of environmental legislation and ethical guidance that apply to our operations and strive to exceed the legislation where viable;
- Training staff in environmental awareness and encouraging them to engage in good environmental practices in their own lives;
- Encouraging our supporters and customers to be aware of environmental issues;
- Understanding the environmental context in which our producer groups operate and working with them, as appropriate, to enhance the environmental sustainability of their activities.

### **4. Key activities and actions**

Traidcraft's environmental aims will be pursued through our own activities and where appropriate through Traidcraft influencing the activities of others. Traidcraft will apply its environmental principles by:

- Setting annual environmental objectives and targets for each of the significant direct effects (e.g. energy consumption, waste, procurement);
- Allocating time and money each year to support continuous environmental improvement and ensuring our environmental footprint is compensated for where we are unable to be environmentally neutral;
- Publishing an annual summary of our environmental performance as part of our social accounts;

- Assessing all new policies, activities and developments for their effects on the environment. In particular, ensuring that our implementation of our purchasing policy and this environmental policy are mutually supportive;
- Monitoring and applying best available environmental practices, techniques and technology in our operations where economically viable;
- Minimising our environmental footprint through:
  - Minimising the consumption of energy and other resources at our UK sites e.g. water and electricity
  - Reducing, where practicable, the need for our staff to travel. Encouraging the use of least damaging forms of transport where possible, both for staff travel but also for the movement of goods
  - Recovering and recycling materials where feasible
  - Reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill
- Increasing the awareness of Traidcraft staff of environmental issues through specific training and briefings;
- Participating, where appropriate, in external local environmental initiatives that relate to Traidcraft's presence in the North East of England.

## **5. Responsibility**

The Director of Operations is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy across both Traidcraft Exchange and Traidcraft plc.

Implementation of the improvement plans will be contained within the yearly plans that are developed by each team. In addition, from time to time, the formation of small cross functional "task forces" or "green teams" will be initiated to progress specific activities.

## **6. Reporting**

Each year Traidcraft will publicise its performance in reaching its environmental improvement targets as part of its social accounts. This information will be made available on Traidcraft's website for public scrutiny.

## **7. Review Date**

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Traidcraft Boards.

## **8. Related Policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with Traidcraft's Purchasing Policy.