



## FINANCE POLICY & PROCEDURE (FPP No.11)

### Environmental Policy

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## **FINANCE POLICY NO. 11**

### **Environmental Policy**

This document should be made available to all staff employed by the South Central Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust. It sets out the guidance for all staff on the issues of reducing environmental impacts of our business operations. Guidance and advice on the application of this procedure should be obtained from the Director of Finance.

Charles Porter  
Director of Finance

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South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust aims towards a successful energy management programme that will combine an effective strategy with the correct practical interventions, and is committed to continually reducing the environmental impacts of its business operations. The Trust will continue to develop its strategy in line with overall NHS Strategy.

Our main impacts are from greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere from the use of fossil fuels for our vehicles, carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere from the use of fossil fuel based energy and from the production of waste in Trust property. Carbon dioxide is the primary greenhouse gas emitted through human activities.

To achieve this commitment, we will:

- Assess the environmental impact of current and likely future operations.
- Strive to continuously improve our environmental performance and integrate recognised applicable best practice into our business operations.
- Consideration should be given to rapidly changing fleet technology and environmental benefits this can bring.
- Contact with suppliers who meet or exceed the environmental standards set by the Trust.
- Give due consideration to environmental issues in the acquisition, design and location of buildings.
- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation as well as other environmental requirements to which the Trust subscribes.
- Minimise waste by evaluating operations and ensuring they are as efficient as possible.

To secure these objectives we will:

- Annually communicate our environmental policy, internally and externally, encouraging feedback from staff and other stakeholders.
- Work together with our service partners and suppliers to encourage commitment towards improved environmental performance.

- Implement an on-going training program for its entire staff to raise awareness of environmental issues and enlist their support in improving our performance.
- Actively promote recycling both internally and externally with stakeholders.
- Incorporate sustainability requirements into new contracts.
- Monitor figures for energy, water, and waste annually as a minimum to identify target areas for improvement.
- Monitor and measure staff business miles to ensure that the Trust is not undertaking business miles unnecessarily.
- Encourage use of audio and video conference call facility for meetings.
- Continue to maintain and foster an active team of volunteer green champions.
- Be an effective partner in ambulance green lead and other related stakeholder meetings.

Specific recent initiatives include:

- impacts on the environment of fuel on the current fleet and its future replacement
- Setting efficiency targets, increasing each year for new trust lease cars
- Introduction of an environmental assessment in the supplier vetting process.
- Targeting a reduction in conveyance of patients to hospitals in order to improve the care for the patient and to reduce the environmental impact.
- Provision of new Trust premises that meet current required environmental standards
- Move towards the achievement of Zero waste to landfill
- Introduce paper recycling at all SCAS sites
- Continuation of a Grey Fleet Policy
- Continuation of lease Car Policy with allowable CO<sub>2</sub> emissions set at no more than 110 CO<sub>2</sub>g on a WLTP basis and incentives for low Co<sub>2</sub>g vehicles.

- Introduction of telemetry technology in new vehicles
- Introduction of solar panel technology on vehicle roofs
- Introduction of video conferencing facility to reduce business travel
- Introduction of e-pay, e-timesheets and e-expenses
- Development and refresh of a board approved environmental 'Sustainable Development Management Plan'.
- Engaging with the NHS SDU and its Good Cooperate Citizen program
- Production of periodic green newsletters available to all staff containing examples of good practice

This statement represents our general position on environmental issues and the policies and practices we will apply in conducting our business. This is accessible to all staff via the intranet and to other interested parties via our website ([www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk](http://www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk)).

## **Equality Statement**

The Trust is committed to promoting positive measures that eliminate all forms of unlawful or unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, marital status, disability, race, nationality, gender, religion/belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment justified by law or relevant to the requirements of the post.

By committing to a policy encouraging equality of opportunity and diversity, the Trust values differences between members of the community and within its existing workforce, and actively seeks to benefit from their differing skills, knowledge, and experiences in order to provide an exemplary healthcare service. The Trust is committed to promoting equality and diversity best practice both within the workforce and in any other area where it has influence.

The Trust will therefore take every possible step to ensure that this procedure is applied fairly to all employees regardless of age, marriage and civil partnership, disability, race, gender, religion/belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and pregnancy/maternity or part-time or employed under a permanent or fixed-term contract or any other irrelevant factor.

Where there are barriers to understanding e.g. an employee has difficulty in reading or writing or where English is not their first language additional support will be put in place wherever necessary to ensure that the process to be followed is understood and that the employee is not disadvantaged at any stage in the procedure. Further information on the support available can be sought from the Human Resource Department.