

# CASH's Environmental Policy

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## Table of Contents

1. The purpose of CASH's Environmental Policy.....	1
2. Our Environmental Values.....	1
3. The scope of CASH's Environmental Policy.....	1
4. Our Environmental Objectives and how we aim to achieve them.....	2
5. The Policy as a Living Document.....	4

## 1. The purpose of CASH's Environmental Policy

This Environmental Policy document (also referred to as just "Policy") aims to set out how we believe a Community Hub may impact the local and wider environment and given that impact, the responsibilities we believe that CASH has in minimising negative whilst encouraging positive environmental outcomes. We aim for the document to be easy to read and easy to understand, so that the Policy can have meaningful influence on the planning, strategic development and day-to-day management of a Community Hub.

## 2. Our Environmental Values

We want to help our community live happy, healthy lives. To do this, we recognise the need for a pleasant local environment that enriches where we live. We believe we have a responsibility to the local community and to the wider environment that means we should aim to live and work in a sustainable way, and to encourage others to do so.

Problems such as single-use plastics and other waste, increased scarcity of water, food miles, toxins in chemicals used in food growing, extinction of species, increases in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions made worse with car use and unsustainable heating solutions are all leading to significant problems for both people and wildlife and significantly impact the planet.

We believe that CASH has a role and a responsibility in encouraging good environmental stewardship. We must consider the environment in the decisions we make, whether in development or running of a community hub, and encourage others to do so. We would like to lead by example but recognise the need and importance of local partners in making this happen.

## 3. The scope of CASH's Environmental Policy

A Community Hub can negatively directly affect the local environment, particularly in the areas of:

- noise
- litter

- air quality
- carbon emissions

There could also be wider negative impacts from a Hub’s procurement and use of

- materials and services
- energy
- water

The Hub can positively influence how the Community engages with sustainable living through:

- bringing isolated people together to strengthen local community networks,
- choosing ethical and environmentally concerned partners,
- ensuring tenants and users are encouraged to consider their environmental impacts and live sustainably,
- encouraging local people, including children, to make better use of the Marlborough Open Space, increasing access to exercise, knowledge and involvement with local natural habitats,
- offering training and education for both employees and local residents.

#### 4. Our Environmental Objectives and how we aim to achieve them

In addition to meeting current relevant environmental legislation, CASH aims to meet the following objectives:

Area of impact	Our Objective	Examples of how we will achieve the Objective
1) Noise	a) To be good neighbours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To set curfews for noise-making activity at a community centre.</li> <li>ii. To consider local residents when making decisions on activities.</li> <li>iii. To provide opportunities for local residents to feedback on activities.</li> </ul>
2) Litter	b) Community Hub waste is disposed of responsibly, within a wider aim of refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, recover and recycle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iv. Plan for the provision of enough litter and recycling bins on-site.</li> <li>v. Encourage local litter picks in partnership with the local residents’ association.</li> </ul>
3) Air quality	c) Reduce local air pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vi. Provide a local centre for activities that is walkable within the Sopwell area.</li> <li>vii. Encourage sustainable forms of transport through partners e.g.</li> </ul>

		Verulam Cycling Club. viii. Discourage idling in the car park through notices.
4) Materials and services procurement and use	d) Reduce waste going to landfill by aiming to refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, recover and recycle. e) Building aims to be zero carbon emissions	ix. To consider environmental impact alongside cost when procuring materials and services e.g. sustainable materials; reusable rather than plastic.
5) Energy procurement and use	f) Reduce overall energy use on heating and lighting. g) Where possible, reduce energy procured from unsustainable sources.	x. Consider energy saving as part of the Community Hub planning process and, where practical, include as part of the design e.g. insulation, solar panels. xi. Consider sustainability of energy generation alongside cost when choosing an energy source and supplier. xii. Encourage users and tenants to think about their energy use e.g. through posters reminding them to turn off lighting.
6) Water procurement and use	h) Reduce overall water use. i) Where possible, reuse water on site.	xiii. Consider water saving as part of the Community Hub planning process and, where practical, include as part of the design e.g. water butts, water saving toilets. xiv. Encourage users and tenants to think about their water use e.g. through posters reminding them to not leave taps running.
7) Partners	j) To work with partners to effectively identify and implement ways to improve a Community Hub's environmental sustainability.	xv. Ensure architects and builders to consider the environmental impact of developing a Community Hub in their work. xvi. To identify suitable partners and advisors (e.g. Plastic Free St Albans and Sustainable St Albans) that can help identify ways to increase the environmental sustainability of the Community Hub. xvii. Where possible, work in concert with partners to implement suggestions.
8) Tenants and users	k) To encourage tenants and users of a Community Hub to support the Hub in increasing its environmental sustainability.	xviii. A hard copy of the Environmental Policy will be available within the Community Hub for tenants and users. xix. An online public copy of the

		Policy will be available.
9) Training and education	l) To include environmental concerns in training and education provided for staff and users at a Community Hub.	xx. New staff will be given a copy of the Environmental Policy upon induction. xxi. Where appropriate, provide relevant information on local environmental matters. xxii. Where appropriate, to identify opportunities to take part in environmental events or support tenants and users in taking part in environmental events e.g. Sustainable St Albans.

## 5. The Policy as a Living Document

It is the responsibility of the Trustees to adopt and implement this Policy.

Once adopted, the Policy should be reviewed at least every three years, and amended where necessary. The Policy should also be reviewed where significant changes are made to either the planning or running of the Community Hub.

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