Environmental Sustainability Policy

Approved by: Board of Governors
Policy owner: Foundation Manager
Effective date: March 2026
Next review date: March 2028

St Bride Foundation was established in 1891 to support the local community's social, educational and cultural needs. St Bride Foundation recognises that, in pursuing its educational and social objectives, it shares with all organisations a responsibility to protect, enhance and sustain the environment for present and future generations.

We are committed to reducing our environmental impact across all areas of activity, improving our operational sustainability, and integrating responsible environmental management into our culture, governance and decision-making. We will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and work proactively to exceed minimum requirements where practicable.

All staff, volunteers, tenants, contractors and event organisers share responsibility for supporting the commitments outlined in this policy.

This policy will be reviewed every two years to enable monitoring of achievements and will identify opportunities for further improvements that will be incorporated into operational planning. These will be reported to the board.

Key Aims

This policy aims to ensure that St Bride Foundation:

- Minimises negative environmental impacts through our work and operations.
- Use resources efficiently and responsibly and conserve and support the use of sustainable resources; supports sustainable procurement and ethical supply chains.
- Reduces carbon emissions and progresses toward long-term net-zero ambitions.
- Prevents pollution and manages waste responsibly by following the "waste hierarchy": reduce, re-use (or reclaim), recover (recycle), dispose – as a last resort.
- Engages staff, volunteers, visitors and partners in environmental stewardship.
- Protects the heritage building while ensuring its sustainable operation.
- To establish and follow environmental good practice and comply with all relevant environmental regulations and legislations.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

St Bride Foundation commits to meeting relevant environmental legislation and guidance, including but not limited to: Environmental Protection Act 1990; Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011; Duty of Care for Waste; Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations; Water Industry Act 1991; UK Net Zero Strategy; UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

Scope

This policy applies to all activities undertaken by St Bride Foundation, including building operations and maintenance; offices, staff practices and facilities; library, events, learning activities and cultural programming; procurement and supplier relationships; waste management and recycling; energy, water, travel and resource use; use of digital systems and equipment; visitors, volunteers, tenants and event hirers.

Climate Change Commitment

The Foundation will work toward reducing its carbon footprint through improved energy efficiency, responsible procurement and consideration of renewable energy sources where feasible within the constraints of the historic building. St Bride Foundation will endeavour to make environmental improvements that can be implemented in ways that respect the building's historic significance and comply with heritage conservation requirements.

Use of Materials

St Bride Foundation will, where appropriate and possible:

- Purchase recycled products.
- Purchase Fairtrade products.
- Implement an energy management plan to reduce consumption of electricity, including a plan to phase in the programme.
- Consider having a third-party energy audit to see where energy savings can be generated.
- Establish a purchasing policy to use environmentally friendly products, including energy star, low VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints and cleaning supplies (MSDS Health Hazard Rating of 1 or less), remanufactured toner cartridges, post-consumer recycled content paper and recyclable plastics.
- Expand our on-site recycling programme to capture paper, cardboard, metals, glass plastics and separate organic materials for composting. Contract with a private recycling company if the local government will not collect recyclables.
- Order printed stationery (letterheads, envelopes) from a printer with sound environmental principles and with a responsible environmental policy.
- Favour suppliers who use little packaging or remove packaging as part of their supply contract and obligations and who operate according to sound environmental principles.
- Use local suppliers, to minimise "fuel miles".
- Install high quality, water-saving devices for toilets and faucets throughout the building.

Disposal of Materials

St Bride Foundation will, where appropriate and possible:

- Recycle all paper waste, including shredded confidential documents.
- Provide clearly labelled containers for material to be recycled, with notices of what can and cannot be recycled.
- Provide an environment free of hazardous materials.
- Take appropriate measures to prevent environmental incidents including pollution, hazardous material exposure and improper waste disposal.

Employee Awareness

St Bride Foundation will, where appropriate and possible:

- Provide environmental information and education for employees, encouraging employees to behave in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Invite guest speakers to inform and motivate staff about environmental issues.
- Use signs and notices as reminders.
- Include relevant information in new employees' orientation.
- Post Environmental Policy on website and make available to all staff, volunteers, trustees, contractors and building users.
- Encourage existing staff to set examples for new employees.
- Create awareness of the benefits to the environment of commuting by walking, bicycling or using public transport, while noting other constraints such as personal safety.

- Make information on recycling systems in St Bride Foundation available to all staff, volunteers and visitors.