

## Green Housekeeping Statement

In 2019, Sustain joined others in declaring a [climate and nature emergency](#). We have always sought to minimise our negative effects upon the environment through our activities, and use services which have a benign or positive effect upon the environment. Most of our office services are provided by our landlord, the Ethical Property Company, which we chose largely because of their ethical stance. Our main priority is to campaign for policies and practices that tackle the climate and nature emergency, and to promote a just transition. However, we are also fully committed to keeping our own house in order hence:

**Power** – Sustain prioritises the following approach, and encourages staff to support:

- Conserving energy, purchasing energy-efficient equipment, fixtures and fittings, turning off machines and equipment when not in use, and using energy-saving settings on printers, computers, etc.
- Choosing a landlord and newly refurbished office space that utilises passive solar energy and buys electricity on a green energy tariff, and which provides excellent recycling services (see below).

**Water** – Sustain prioritises:

- Campaigning against bottled water and in favour of refillable containers and free drinking water.
- Encouraging staff and volunteers to minimise water use, and using left-over water for the plants.
- Encouraging those responsible for the building to repair equipment/fittings which are wasting water as quickly as possible and to purchase equipment which minimises water use e.g. low-flush toilets.

**Transport** – Sustain has a separate Greener Travel policy providing more detail. Overall, we aim to:

- Encourage staff and others to travel by public transport or bicycle in London.
- Encourage low carbon transport for longer distance travel (see our separate *Greener Travel* policy).

**Waste** – Sustain minimises waste wherever we can, in line with the waste hierarchy by, for example:

- Using and promoting sustainable catering that reduces waste and diverts unavoidable waste to the most useful purposes, in line with the Food Waste Hierarchy devised by Sustain member Feedback.
- Reducing resource use by, for example, minimising printing and using double-sided if we need to.
- Buying and utilising long-use material, instead of single-use options, for example mugs, jugs and glasses rather than plastic cups for meetings. We avoid frivolous resource use such as plastic straws.
- Reusing resources, for example second-hand furniture, equipment, envelopes and ‘scrap’ paper.
- Recycling resources, benefiting from our landlord’s thorough recycling service for paper, plastics, and printer cartridges, electrical equipment, furniture, batteries, etc.

**Purchasing** - Sustain aims to:

- Purchase healthy, ethical and sustainable traded food and drink (see our *Greener Food* policy)
- Question whether we need some electrical equipment. Purchase energy efficient equipment that has the lowest negative effect on the environment as a priority, wherever possible.
- Purchase post-consumer waste recycled paper, cardboard, and other stationery wherever possible.

**Other activities** - Sustain aims to:

- Consider and monitor the effects on the environment of all our activities on a regular basis.
- Minimise any negative effects where possible, and always learn from good ideas and good practice.