



# Black Country Women's Aid

*We listen, we support, we care*

<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>BCWA Environmental Policy</b>
<b>Policy last updated</b>	August 2022
<b>Policy Author</b>	Tracey Alexander
<b>Policy applies to</b>	All BCWA employees, volunteers, temporary staff, contractors and suppliers.
<b>Policy Purpose</b>	To set out BCWA's commitment to the environment.

## POLICY STATEMENT

Black Country Women's Aid (formerly Sandwell Women's Aid) is a leading regional charity which supports victims of violence across the West Midlands. First established over 30 years ago in Sandwell, we have grown from a small local refuge provider to a diverse organisation which works across Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

We offer sensitive and holistic support services which each year help thousands of victims of abuse to escape from violence, cope with trauma and rebuild their lives. We place victims' voices at the heart of our work and we constantly develop our services in response to needs in our communities.

BCWA aim to be an environmentally friendly Company and it is our intention to promote a policy that is focused on being green aware. A culture will be fostered within the company that ensures all employees understand they can make a significant contribution to the Company being an environmentally friendly and green aware company. BCWA is committed to improving its environmental and sustainability performance and to the protection of the environment and prevention of pollution through constant review of its environmental management system.

BCWA consider the impact of all our actions on people and the environment and are committed to sustainable communities, services and development.

### Defining sustainability

- Social sustainability (affecting people and communities)
- Economic sustainability (financial viability and value for money)
- Environmental sustainability (our impact on the environment)

The Company's policy is to comply or exceed the requirements of environmental legislation and regulation.

BCWA will use this statement to set out its environmental aims and objectives.

BCWA has the following environmental aims:

- We support ethical investment and management of our funds.
- Where possible will work with our suppliers and other partners to develop/deliver environmental and sustainable practices, products and services.
- Encouraging the sharing of knowledge of environmental and sustainable working practices to improve our performance.
- We will value our resources and equipment making the best use of them and where possible reduce, re-use and recycle our waste.
- We will seek to reduce our consumption of energy and water and will use renewable energy resources where possible.

- Review and explore measures for the reduction of volumes of all waste materials generated by the Company
- Aim to reduce levels of pollution emissions wherever possible.
- We will operate efficiently in our working processes and practices (e.g. to avoid duplication, waste and unnecessary expense).
- Explore opportunities for recycling all possible waste materials. Our ultimate aim will be to recycle any waste material that can be recycled.
- We will listen and seek to use the most efficient and effective channels for communicating internally and externally.
- We will aim to measure and report on our carbon footprint for our activities with a view to minimising our footprint over time.

BCWA has the following environmental objectives:

- We will consider if environmentally friendly products can be purchased when buying any equipment for use within the company.
- We will train our staff annually on environmental awareness and include this policy as part of the induction for new staff.
- Share information with our interested parties as appropriate. BCWA will publish this policy statement on its website annually.
- We will encourage our staff to work more sustainably, e.g. to reduce energy use and to minimise unnecessary travel. This will be reviewed on a quarterly basis.
- We will introduce working practices that requires computers, lights, photocopiers, printers, etc. are “switched off” when not in use. The Company will also ensure that heating, lighting and ventilation are used efficiently and effectively. This will be reviewed on a quarterly basis.

This statement will be reviewed annually by trustees, employees, and other interested parties as appropriate. Where significant changes occur this statement will be reviewed more frequently.

Signed:

Date: 01 June 2022

**Sara Ward, CEO**

## VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date Amended	What has changed	Policy updated by
V.1	June 2022	Environmental Policy statement for website	Tracey Alexander

