# UK Youth Environmental Policy Statement

## Introduction

1. UK Youth attaches great importance to the UK Government's current environmental strategy and recognises its role as part of local communities, whose concerns must also be our concerns.

2. UK Youth recognises and accepts that concern for the environment is an integral and fundamental part of the Charity's activities. The Charity is committed to the protection of the natural environment, including the prevention of pollution and the avoidance of harm and nuisance, while maintaining organisational effectiveness.

3. UK Youth is committed to meeting all relevant compliance obligations, including environmental legislation such as the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Environment Act 1995, the Environment Act 2021, and the workplace recycling requirements in England (Simpler Recycling), and to the continual improvement of its environmental performance and management system.

4. The organisation will actively seek to reduce its adverse environmental impacts to the lowest practicable level by recognising its responsibilities for safety in the workplace, pollution control, and care for the local environment. Any threat of pollution from its activities or products will be identified and either eliminated or effectively controlled.

5. The Chief Executive has overall responsibility for this policy's implementation and requires that it be a prime concern of all staff at every level.

6. This statement will be communicated to all staff, suppliers, and contractors, and made freely available to the public and regulatory authorities.

## Environmental Action Programme

The following environmental action programme is formulated to implement the policy. The environmental action programme determines the specific objectives for environmental control, providing guidelines for charity personnel who have the responsibility for ensuring that the objectives are met:

a. **Management Involvement.** Managers at all levels throughout the charity must take individual responsibility to ensure that environmental issues are considered carefully when making decisions or when planning and controlling work.

b. **Workforce Involvement.** All staff will be made aware of their individual responsibilities for acting in accordance with the environmental policy. Accountabilities will be clearly defined within the management structure. Appropriate training and instruction will be provided.

c. **Effects on the Community.** Noise, odour, atmospheric emissions, traffic and other aspects of the charity's activities, which can affect the local community, will be controlled to the lowest practical level. The charity seeks to be a good neighbour by maintaining its operating sites to the highest practical standards.

d. **Engineering and Safety.** Plant and systems of work will be designed and maintained to the highest possible standard in order to minimise accidents and unforeseen occurrences. The charity will endeavour to work closely with the relevant statutory bodies to meet all applicable legislation and improve operating procedures. Systems have been developed to provide the appropriate response to deal with any incident which might have off site significance.

e. **Waste Reduction and Recycling.** Careful consideration will be given to the elimination or minimisation of waste at source and the recycling or reuse of materials.

f. **Waste Disposal.** Disposal and transport of wastes off-sites will be carried out in a responsible manner and with due regard to all environmental considerations. Discharge of trade effluent to sewer or through the Sewage Plant at Avon Tyrrell will be as required by legislation, through consent and controls. The charity will endeavour to minimise spillages and maintain good housekeeping as part of its system of compliance.

g. **Biodiversity and Sustainability.** UK Youth will protect and enhance biodiversity at Avon Tyrrell through a habitat action plan and species monitoring, and will use the site to encourage environmental learning for the young people and visitors who use it.

h. **Climate Change.** UK Youth will measure its Scope 1, 2 and material Scope 3 emissions, reduce them year on year, and plan for the effects of extreme weather on its sites, its programmes, and the young people it works with.

i. **Equitable Access to Nature.** UK Youth will remove barriers so more young people facing inequality can experience green and blue spaces, including through Adventures Away from Home and bursary-funded outdoor learning.

To meet the main policy objectives the Chief Executive requires that the Senior Leadership Team will:

a. Promote environmental awareness and performance through effective education and training.

b. Implement and operate management systems to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and demonstrate where practicable, further improvement in environmental performance.

c. Maintain an environment manual, as the first point of reference to ensure activities are conducted in compliance with the law and international convention, and to provide a broad overview of policies on environmental issues.

d. Ensure that all charity personnel are aware of their personal responsibilities and accountability.

The role of Environmental Manager has been delegated by the Chief Executive to the Director of Outdoor Learning. The Environmental Manager acts as EMS Lead for the Sustainability Action Plan 2026–2028, working with the plan's senior responsible lead, the Sustainability Lead, and the priority owners.

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