



Emmaus North East

Environmental & Sustainability Policy



**GOING
GREEN
TOGETHER**

An introduction from Ruth, CEO at Emmaus North East

Emmaus North East has worked hard over the last two years to align our activities with the 17 International Sustainable Development Goals. This has included developing a Green Team and an Action Plan that runs to 2030 to reduce our carbon footprint. We were delighted to receive Investors in the Environment bronze accreditation in 2024 and to be awarded a national Investors in the Environment Award for the development of Lucie's Laundry, the only free community laundry in the country. This was just the start of our improved commitment to the environment, sustainability and greater social impact.

Our work is dedicated to improving the lives of people who experience homelessness and poverty. Since 2024, we have increased the number of people we can offer permanent homes to by 76% and have plans in 2025 for more women's only accommodation. We also plan to develop more social enterprises and continue to recycle more and more furniture in our workshop. Environmental values are important to us and are integrated into our daily activities and operations. This policy outlines our commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability.



Key people

Meet our Green Team

Everyone at Emmaus North East is working hard to embed environmental and sustainability action throughout our organisation. Driving forward this agenda, we have our Green Team with members from across our charity, community and social enterprise.



Jess Cook
Trustee and Board lead



Costi
Emmaus companion



Carol Hallett
Durham SHAP lead



Ruth Parker
CEO



Kim Scott
Area Retail Supervisor



Katie Spedding
Support Worker



Chris Yare
Cook

Emmaus North East is being supported by the Going Green Together programme, led by the Voluntary Organisations' Network North East (VONNE). The programme is delivered in partnership with the VONNE Climate Action Alliance and environmental experts Genee and SmartCarbon.

Environmental & Sustainability Policy

We recognise that our activities have an impact on the environment, and we are committed to minimising this impact while promoting sustainable practices. Our Environmental & Sustainability Policy outlines our commitment to environmental stewardship and our efforts to integrate environmental considerations into all aspects of our work.



Our commitments



We are committed to promoting sustainability and environmental responsibility in our organisation's operations, programs, and initiatives.



We strive to raise awareness among our staff, volunteers, and stakeholders about the importance of environmental protection and sustainable practices.

Our commitments

Recycle and reuse workshops and shop



We aim to reduce waste by establishing and operating a recycle and reuse workshop that salvages and refurbishes materials, furniture, and other items.



We promote the reuse of materials through workshops, education, and outreach activities in the community.

We encourage the donation of unwanted items to our workshop and shops to minimise waste generation and promote resource conservation.

Energy conservation



We strive to reduce energy consumption in community homes and social enterprises by implementing energy-efficient measures and utilising renewable energy sources whenever possible.

We promote energy-saving practices such as turning off lights and equipment when not in use and optimising heating and cooling systems.

We aim to educate our beneficiaries and community members about energy conservation practices.

Our commitments

Waste management



We prioritise waste reduction, recycling, and responsible waste management practices in our operations and facilities.

We encourage staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries to reduce, reuse, and recycle materials and products whenever possible.

We collaborate with local waste management authorities to ensure proper disposal of waste and promote recycling initiatives in our communities.

Sustainable housing



In our housing, we aim to introduce energy-efficient features to reduce environmental impact.

We will explore the use of eco-friendly products.

We encourage sustainable living practices among our companions, such as water conservation, energy efficiency, and waste reduction.



Our commitments

Transportation and carbon footprint



We will arrange for regular energy efficiency assessments and respond to the results.

We promote sustainable transportation options for our staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries, such as public transportation, carpooling, cycling, and walking.

We encourage the use of fuel-efficient vehicles and regularly maintain them to minimise emissions.

We assess and monitor our carbon footprint, seeking opportunities to reduce emissions associated with our transportation.

Community engagement

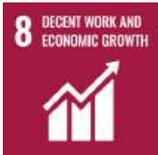


We will actively engage with our community to promote environmental education, awareness, and participation in sustainable practices.

The team will attend workshops, training programs, and run awareness campaigns on topics such as recycling, energy conservation, and sustainable living.

Our commitments

Continuous improvement



We will regularly evaluate and measure our environmental performance to identify areas for improvement.

We will set measurable goals and targets to continuously enhance our sustainability efforts.

We seek feedback from our stakeholders to inform and guide our future initiatives.



Communication and education



We will strive to communicate our environmental policy and sustainability initiatives to our staff, volunteers, beneficiaries, and the public.

We will provide environmental education and training opportunities to empower our team to make environmentally conscious choices.

We share success stories, best practices, and lessons learned to inspire others to adopt sustainable practices.

Our commitments

Emmaus North East is compliant with all applicable standards, laws, requirements, regulations and public/customer expectations.

We will continue to improve our environmental management system by working to the Investors in the Environment (iE) criteria, considering any changes in legislation, our organisation, and other factors.

We will convey this policy to all our employees ensuring that they are provided with training to increase awareness of environmental matters.

R. Parker

Ruth Parker,
Chief Executive of
Emmaus North East

J. Cook

Jess Cook,
Emmaus North East
Board Lead

Policy last reviewed and updated: September 2025