



Environmental Sustainability Policy

FACE – Family and Community Enterprise | Registered charity 1179629 | Working as FAM

Head office: Central Buildings, Richmond Terrace, Blackburn, BB1 7AP | Applies at head office and all FAM outreach sites

REFERENCE	VERSION	OWNER	REVIEW
FAM-OP-27	1.0 (September 2026)	Operations Lead	Annually

Status: approved by the Board of Trustees on 10 September 2026.

Our commitment

FAM is committed to reducing its environmental impact in practical, affordable ways, and to involving young people in caring for their communities and the planet. We look for sensible choices in how we use energy, travel, buy, reuse and dispose of things, without ever compromising the safety of young people.

1 Purpose and scope

- 1.1** This policy sets out how FACE – Family and Community Enterprise (registered charity 1179629), working as FAM, will reduce its impact on the environment in ways that are practical and proportionate for a small charity. It applies to trustees, staff and volunteers, to all our sites and activities, and to how we travel, buy and use resources.
- 1.2** Young people care about the future of their communities and the planet. Climate change and pollution also tend to hit the least well-off hardest. Acting responsibly is part of being a good youth charity, and it often saves money too.

2 Our approach

- Focus on the actions that make a real difference and are within our control.
- Choose the greener option where it costs about the same and works just as well.
- Never let an environmental choice compromise the safety or wellbeing of young people.
- Involve young people in ideas and action, where they want to be involved.
- Keep it simple: small, steady changes rather than complicated targets we cannot measure.

3 Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Board of trustees	Approves this policy and considers environmental impact in major decisions, such as premises, vehicles and large purchases.
Operations Lead	Leads on putting this policy into practice and reports progress to trustees once a year.
Staff and volunteers	Follow the practical steps below and suggest improvements.

4 Energy and premises

- Switch off lights, heaters, computers and equipment when not in use, and at the end of each day.
- Keep heating at a comfortable but sensible temperature, and close doors and windows when heating is on.
- Choose energy-efficient equipment and LED lighting when replacing items.
- When choosing or renewing an energy contract for premises we control, consider renewable tariffs where the cost is reasonable.
- Where we use shared or hired venues, encourage the venue to make sensible energy savings.
- Report leaks, draughts and faults promptly.

5 Travel and transport

5.1 Much of our work is local and community-based, which already keeps travel down. We will:

- encourage walking, cycling and public transport for staff, volunteers and young people where it is safe and practical
- hold meetings online where that works just as well
- plan trips and transport to share vehicles and avoid unnecessary journeys
- consider fuel efficiency and emissions when hiring or buying vehicles
- choose local venues and activities where they meet young people's needs

5.2 Travel for activities and trips always follows the Activities, Trips and Transport Policy. Safety comes first.

6 Buying goods and services

- Buy only what we need, and check whether we already have it or can borrow it first.
- Choose products that last, can be repaired or reused, and have less packaging.
- Buy second-hand or refurbished equipment and furniture where suitable.

- Use local suppliers where they offer good value, supporting the local economy and reducing delivery miles.
- Consider suppliers' environmental and ethical practices when comparing quotes, alongside price and quality, in line with the Financial Controls Policy.
- Avoid single-use plastic cups, plates, cutlery and bottles at activities where there is a practical alternative.

7 Waste, reuse and recycling

- Provide clearly labelled recycling at our sites and encourage young people to use it.
- Print only when necessary, print double-sided, and use electronic records and forms where possible.
- Dispose of confidential paper securely and recycle it where possible, in line with the Records Management and Retention Policy.
- Dispose of electrical items, batteries, printer cartridges and any hazardous waste through proper recycling or collection services, never in general waste.
- Before disposing of old IT equipment, make sure all data is securely wiped, in line with the Data Protection Policy.
- Pass on usable equipment, clothing or kit to other community groups rather than throwing it away.

8 Food

- Plan food for activities and holiday clubs carefully to reduce waste, using attendance numbers.
- Where safe and within food hygiene rules, redistribute or share surplus food rather than throwing it away.
- Offer tasty, healthy options that include plant-based choices, while meeting young people's dietary, cultural and religious needs, allergies and funder requirements.
- Use reusable water bottles and water jugs at sessions where practical.

9 Involving young people

- Include environmental topics in activities where young people are interested, such as litter picks, food growing, bike maintenance, or nature and outdoor activities.
- Support young people who want to lead green projects or volunteering in their community.
- Highlight green jobs, skills and training in our Futures pathway work where relevant.
- Ask young people for their ideas on how FAM could do better.

10 Monitoring and review

10.1 The Operations Lead will give trustees a short annual update on what has been done, any savings made, and ideas for the coming year. Where simple information is available, such as energy bills or mileage claims, it may be used to track progress. This policy is reviewed every two years, or sooner if the charity's premises or activities change significantly.

11 How this policy supports our focus

- We involve young people aged 11 to 25 in sustainability, for example through low-cost travel to sessions and reusing sports kit.

12 Related policies

- 06 Health and Safety Policy
- 07 Activities, Trips and Transport Policy
- 20 Financial Controls Policy
- 15 Records Management and Retention Policy
- 13 Data Protection Policy
- 18 Volunteer Policy
- 24 Risk Management Policy

Approval record

Approved by the Board of Trustees on	10 th Sep 2026
Signed (Chair of Trustees)	
Next review due	31st July 2027
Version history	1.0, September 2026. New policy; replaces any earlier FAM or FACE version.