

STA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Purpose

To promote sustainability within the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) sector, leading by example and minimising the organisation's impact on the environment. Our commitments and actions will be evidence-based, informed by the latest research and involve a thorough process of assessing the full impacts and benefits of any behaviour change.

Scope

This Environmental Policy covers the activities, products and services of our office-based operations headquartered in Canberra, and related activities and events across Australia.

Our commitments

<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Work area</i>			
	CBR Office	Events	Programs	Remote workspaces
conserve energy, water, paper and other natural resources while still providing a comfortable working environment	✓	✓	✓	✓
prevent and minimise pollution from our activities (including only travelling by air when necessary)	✓	✓	✓	✓
provide an environmentally sound workplace, and progressively implement a range of environmentally focussed physical improvements	✓			✓
comply with all relevant Australian Government, State and Territory environmental legislation, regulations, policies and initiatives	✓	✓	✓	✓
minimise waste through recycling and using recycled products and materials wherever practical	✓	✓	✓	✓
communicate this Policy to staff and the public	✓	✓	✓	✓

Actions (2019-2020)

STA staff have committed to carrying out the following actions over the FY 2019/20 to reduce the impact of our work on the environment:

CBR Office

- Opt-in for a renewable energy provider
- Switch off lights when the office is empty, and power off electronic equipment if office is empty for more than one day
- Only reusable plates, cups and cutlery used by staff/visitors (Keep cups, etc.)
- Staff to utilise ride share services or carpool where possible
- Where possible purchase carbon offsets when travelling
- Office to have ongoing recycling capacity and encourage use of sustainable cleaning products
- Kitchen compost unit installed and operational
- Introduce a carbon offset policy (flight contributions etc)
- Minimise packaging by bulk ordering, use recyclable materials for postage where possible
- Use social enterprise where possible
- All internal printing should be on recycled paper, black and white, double sided, and only carried out if necessary
- During procurement of office technology, furniture and equipment, consider energy consumption, composition and life cycle. Consider refurbished/second hand where appropriate.
- Recycle technology appropriately

Events, workshops and programs

- Washable or compostable plates and cutlery for catering
- Minimise food waste by ordering appropriately and/or connecting with food redistribution services
- Minimise use of plastic where possible
- Locally and sustainably sourced produce and gifts where possible
- Where possible purchase carbon offsets (for flights etc.)
- Minimise packaging by bulk ordering, use recyclable where possible
- Use social enterprise where possible
- Encourage use of sustainable cleaning products
- Reduce printing and paper use where ever possible, replacing with electronic resources

Remote workspaces

- Minimise packaging by bulk ordering, use recyclable materials for postage where possible
- Encourage use of sustainable cleaning products
- Where remote workspaces are located in office sharing facilities, prioritise facilities with sound environmental practice