



ANDERIDA ADOLESCENT CARE

ENVIRONMENTAL & ETHICAL POLICY

The staff team at Anderida care about ethical issues and wish to encourage the young people we care for to have a good awareness of the environment and develop a social conscience. We support **Friends of the Earth** and **Amnesty International** in their campaigns for:

- ❖ Humanity and Human Rights.
- ❖ Protecting nature and the environment.
- ❖ Supporting the local community and defending human rights.
- ❖ Promoting safe and healthy food and water everywhere.
- ❖ Supporting alternative energy solutions that can change the world for the better for everyone.

Climate Change and Air Pollution

'Air pollution costs lives and billions of pounds. It is one of the UK's biggest killers, causing up to 36,000 early deaths in the UK every year. That's more than obesity or alcohol. Dirty air leads to worsening asthma symptoms, heart disease and even lung cancer. Air pollution has even been associated with changes in the brain linked to dementia and can lead to children growing up with smaller lungs.

The wider effects of air pollution include the burden on our health services and business. The costs of illness and days lost from work are estimated to add up to £20bn a year.

The benefits of cleaner air would be shared by everybody: reduced traffic congestion, more livable cities and towns, and fewer days off sick.

Cleaning up our air will also help in the fight against climate change, the biggest environmental problem we face.'

- **Friends of the Earth, 2018**

Anderida will endeavour to do the following to promote awareness and help minimise the impact that the organisation has on the environment:

Energy

- Continue looking at options for clean energy suppliers.
- Continue reviewing solar energy options.
- Lights and electrical goods are switched off when not in use.
- Tumble dryers are used sparingly and with consideration of electric consumption.
- Central heating systems are used sensibly, with the ideal temperatures being set between 18- 22 degrees Celsius.
- Energy saving lightbulbs are used throughout the organisation.

Transport

- No further purchases of diesel vehicles.
- Consideration of purchasing electric cars when economically viable.

- Switch off cars engine when waiting at level crossings.
- Drive at optimal speeds to reduce fuel consumption.
- Use the recycled air setting when stuck in traffic – car passengers can be exposed to eight times more pollution than cyclists.
- Promote alternative travel and transport options where possible, increasing use of public transport and walking or cycling.
- Choose UK and locally sourced products to reduce contributions to greenhouse gas emissions.
- Buy pollution-busting house plants to freshen up the homes. Research carried out by NASA has proven that leaves and roots have helped remove toxic vapours from confined spaces.

Environment, Wildlife and Nature

- Gardens are planted with bee and butterfly loving flowers and plants to support growth of the endangered bee population and encourage biodiversity within the local environment and reduce the consequent risk to the food-chain.
- Office outdoor area to be developed to encourage local wildlife.
- Use of pesticides on garden plants should be avoided and alternative methods of discouraging unwanted insects and pests researched.
- Encourage use of birdboxes, feeders, bee-boxes and insect hotels in gardens and at the office. Building of these can be encouraged as projects for young people or as activities during 'Bring your kids to work day'.
- Participate in local Beach Cleans.
- Staff and homes to utilise wash balls as opposed to detergents.
- Continue to use eco-friendly cleaning products. All homes to make use of Koh cleaning products – natural essential oils can be added for those who desire a pleasant fragrance!
- When purchasing new appliances, the most cost-effective and eco-friendly products should be researched.

Plastic

'In the past 100 years humans have produced a lot of plastic. The benefits of plastic are that it's cheap and strong, light and extraordinarily versatile. So, it's not surprising we're using mountains of the stuff. But the waste is going to stick around for ages – with horrible effects on wildlife and the environment.

It's dawning on many of us just how wasteful our use of plastic is. Take the average plastic bag – used for just a few minutes but lasts for many hundreds of years.

The vast majority of plastic waste doesn't get reused or recycled. It's out there lingering in the natural environment – polluting our soils and seas.'

- Friends of the Earth, 2018

Anderida will endeavour to do the following to promote awareness, reduce use of plastic and help minimise the impact that the organisation has on the environment:

- **#PlasticFreeFriday** – Anderida pledge to ditch single-use plastics one day a week.
- Where possible Anderida will make use of **re-usable** food containers instead of cling-film to keep food fresh.

- Staff to make use of re-fillable water bottles and coffee cups, such as bamboo **eco-cups**. Many coffee shops also offer discounts for customers using refill cups instead of disposable cups. Disposable water bottles will not be purchased by the organisation.
- Purchase hand-soap in bulk for distribution to homes for using in refillable soap dispensers.
- Ensure plastic is recycled as much as is possible.
- Encourage awareness around 'unseen' plastic such as microfibres in clothing, and microbeads in toothpaste and other beauty products which pollute our soil and oceans and get into the food chain.
- Always take our **own bags** when shopping.
- Encourage use of alternatives to plastic products such as bamboo toothbrushes, and biodegradable cotton buds.

Food

'From growing crops to processing, transporting, selling, storing and throwing away food – everything we eat has an impact on the environment and the climate.

*In the UK, agriculture is responsible for 10% of greenhouse gas emissions, 83% of ammonia air pollution, and 16% of water pollution. More intensive forms of farming are the leading cause of harm to UK farmland wildlife'. - **Friends of the Earth***

- Homes to enjoy weekly Vegetarian/Vegan evening meal – '**Veggie Tuesdays**' to reduce meat consumption; beneficial to both health and environment on many levels, as well as encouraging discovery and enjoyment of a diverse range of meals and flavours.
- Meat-free Recipe of the Month included in Anderida monthly newsletter and staff and young people encouraged to share ideas and recipes.
- Only **free-range, organic eggs** are purchased for homes, and where possible source eggs from Oliver's Hill Farm.
- Staff to avoid purchasing cheaply produced meats and foods and to look for organic, **locally sourced** and well reared options.
- Homes are encouraged to buy **seasonal produce** where possible.
- Staff and young people should be aware of relevant quality standard logos for produce and wherever possible should source items with the following certifications:
 - **Red Tractor** – farming and food standards scheme.
 - **RSPCA assured** – animal welfare standards for farms, hauliers and abattoirs.
 - **Lion Eggs** – vaccinations for salmonella and traceability of hens, eggs and feed
 - **QMS** (Quality Meat Standard) (Scotland) – standards including animal welfare and wellbeing and traceability.
 - **MSC** – for sustainable fish.
 - **Rainforest Alliance** products.
 - **RSPO** - Sustainable Palm Oil.
 - **Cocoa Life** – Sustainable Cocoa.
- Homes should buy British and **local** produce when possible to support the local economy and reduce carbon footprint.
- Staff to encourage children and young people to participate in **growing their own** vegetables, fruit and herbs.

Waste – reduce, reuse, recycle

Reducing waste is a great way to reduce our impact on the environment. From thinking differently about what we buy, to using re-usable items, to and composting at home - there are lots of ways to make a real difference.

There is more to recycling than just paper, glass and plastic – by making a little extra effort we can play our part in reducing what goes to landfill and ending up in our environment and oceans.

- Development and use of a local '**Recycling map**' to encourage recycling for items that are not included in doorstep recycling, including batteries, water filters, printer ink etc.
- Working towards a **paper-free** payslip system.
- We will no longer send Christmas cards but will instead send e-cards or make a charitable donation.
- Recycled toilet paper and kitchen roll to be used throughout the organisation.
- Recycled printer paper to be used throughout the organisation.
- **Terracycle** Crisp packet recycling scheme – crisp packets should be brought to the collection point at the office where they will regularly be taken to a main collection point.
- Use **flush savers** to reduce the quantity of water wasted in toilets.
- Make use of water butts to water plants in the garden.
- Make use of composters for food waste.
- Ensure food labelling and effective food rotation to minimise unnecessary waste.

People, community and human rights

In line with Anderida's values, 'Investing in People, Nurturing Change', Anti-discrimination Policy and with a non-violent resistance approach, we will continue to examine our own practices and are working hard to raise awareness and resist all forms of conscious and unconscious discrimination. We pledge to support Amnesty International in their effort to protect women, men and children wherever justice, freedom, truth and dignity are denied.

- We will support the **Prevent Agenda** and **British Values**.
- Anderida will spread awareness of current issues and invite staff to help make a difference through actions including petitions, campaigns, fundraising and events.
- Development of a charity day and cultural celebration calendar (can combine with seasonal foods calendar).
- Staff to buy **Fair Trade** products wherever possible.
- Anderida choose not to support and will boycott five of the least ethical companies which are currently named by ethicalconsumer.org as:
 - **Amazon**
 - **Shell**
 - **Nestle**
 - **Tesco**
 - **Barclays**

And will, whenever possible, source alternative products and services.

- Staff should educate the children and young people about large unethical corporations so that they can make informed decisions surrounding brands.
- Development of a periodic staff workshop to create further awareness around environmental and ethical issues.
- Encourage and reward all young people for thinking ethically.
- Development of the ethical and environmental officer role and monitoring by the Regulation 44 visitor to improve practice in this area.

Through remaining informed on best practice, it is Anderida's aim to regularly review and update these policy objectives in order to run an organisation that has a minimised impact on the environment and a positive effect on the outlook of the young people surrounding ethics and environmental issues.

There is an ethical and environmental officer in each home to oversee the implementation of this policy. The officer to address and environmental issues in monthly staff meetings. Opportunities, projects and issues regarding ethical and environmental matters will be discussed at monthly management meetings.

Angie Dekker is the organisations Environmental and Ethical officer and will continue work alongside the managers and teams to identify improved practices in this area, including sourcing further environmentally friendly and ethical products to replace what might currently be in use.

This policy is due for review on 05.07.22