



Environmental Policy Statement

Issue 15
February 2024

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1. Purpose

The Society's mission is to be "a member organization dedicated to improving the environment and society by enabling sustainable building and communities". This is enshrined in the Memorandum of the Society which states that we must pursue "in carrying on any business or other activity, ecological policies to protect or enhance the environment in accordance with the principles of sustainable development". Therefore, a commitment to reduce our environmental impact and continually improve our environmental performance is at the core of our operations.

2. Scope

We promote sustainability and environmental awareness throughout our business operations and value chain, including through and with our Members and customers. We also encourage our suppliers and all business partners to apply these principles.

3. Audience

The audience for this policy includes all Ecology colleagues, suppliers and business partners.

4. Policy

This document sets out our main policy commitments around the environment in our operations and value chain.

4.1 Our activities

- Pursue credit provision activities that result in positive environmental outcomes and promote sustainable development as elaborated in our lending policy.
- Support the advancement of ecological building practices and the growth of sustainable housing stock.
- Contribute to the environmental, economic and social sustainability of communities, including consideration of how our activities align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Avoid the use of counterparties that have a record of irresponsible lending which damages the environment.

4.2 Our wider influence

- Demonstrate the commercial viability of ecologically focussed lending.
- Support the preservation and growth of sustainable building methods and skills.
- Promote the adoption of energy-efficient and environmentally positive buildings and lifestyles.
- Provide support to and active participation in initiatives by civil society groups designed to influence government to adopt policies that address wider manifestations of the ecological crisis, in particular the climate emergency.

4.3 Our organization (colleagues, premises and equipment)

- Comply with or exceed the requirements of all relevant environmental legislation and codes of practice.
- Develop and implement a long-term strategy underpinned by meaningful, achievable targets that allow our colleagues and Members to share in generating a positive environmental and social impact on the planet.
- Assess the environmental impact of any new processes or products we intend to introduce.
- As far as possible pursue procurement policies that represent the least damage to the environment including purchasing locally where possible and engaging suppliers who share our vision.
- Promote biodiversity within our headquarters site.
- Minimise energy and water usage in our headquarters, and promote efficient use of resources in all areas of

business activity in order to reduce our consumption of natural resources, particularly where they are non-renewable.

- Minimise travel requirements as far as reasonably practical and encourage the use of appropriate means of transport.
- Seek to minimise our waste, and then reuse or recycle as much of it as possible.

4.4 Monitoring and improvement

- Provide training and awareness for our colleagues and directors to enable them both to fully understand our environmental policy and make improvements to reduce the environmental impacts of their work activities.
- Ensure that our policy along with improvements made and future targets are published in our Annual Report and on our website.
- Commit to regular external scrutiny of our progress and continuous review of our procedures for managing our environmental impact.
- Develop a set of KPIs to monitor our environmental impact and contribution to combatting the climate emergency.
- Publicise the impact of our business operations on the environment with particular reference to our lending activity.
- Our policy commitments are monitored by our Sustainability Lead, Stephanie Landymore.

5. Non-compliance

Any material non-compliance identified will be reported to the Core Management Committee and remedied at the earliest opportunity.

6. Amendment Control Sheet

This policy is owned by the Sustainability Lead and is to be reviewed on an annual basis, assessed and approved by the Core Management Committee.

7. Version

Issue No.	Subject	Amended by	Date
15	Environmental Policy Statement	Stephanie Landymore	December 2023
14	Environmental Policy Statement	Chris Rickerby	June 2019
13	Environmental Policy Statement	Chris Rickerby	June 2018
12	Environmental Policy Statement	Chris Rickerby	July 2017
11	Environmental Policy Statement	Chris Rickerby	June 2016
10	Ecology Building Society's Environmental Policy Statement	Paul Ellis	June 2015
9	Ecology Building Society's Environmental Policy Statement	Paul Ellis	January 2014
8	Environmental Policy 2010	John Ainley	March 2010
7	Environmental Policy 2008	John Ainley	January 2008
6	Environment Policy	Paul Ellis	Apr 2007
5	Environment Policy	Paul Ellis	Dec 2004
4	Environment Policy	Paul Ellis	October 2003
3	Environment Policy	Paul Ellis	October 1999
2	Environment Policy	Paul Ellis	July 1998
1	Environment Policy	Paul Ellis	April 1994

Approval

Approved by: Core Management Committee

Date: 21 February 2024