

Environmental Principles 2019

We know that those who have contributed the least to climate change - young people - will face the biggest impact of climate change if we do not take steps to reduce our impact on the planet.

Our ambition is to be an agency which will protect the natural environment and ensure its ability to support life for future generations, through our agency, operations, programmes and a Youth Collective.

As an agency accountable to young people we need to mitigate our own impact on the environment, whilst proudly and pro-actively aiming to tackle climate change through our programmes.

We developed a set of Environmental Principles outlining our commitment to protecting the natural environment in five focused ways:

- Managing our carbon footprint
- Greener programming
- Building our staff knowledge & commitment
- Sustainable financing decisions
- Engaging our Restless networks

Drafted through a participatory consultation across our global agency, these Environmental Principles are intended to inform the thinking and actions of Restless Development as we move forwards, informing and guiding future actions, policies and strategies. In line with our Global Agency Plan and Values, Restless Development is articulating the following environmental principles:

1. MANAGING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

We are committed to measuring and reducing our agency's carbon footprint. Climate breakdown is a real and undeniable threat to our entire civilisation, and we know that we need to reduce our carbon emissions - or offset against its effect - in order to protect the planet.

How we will achieve our commitments:

- Redesign and redevelop our carbon footprint measurement tool to be completed by all Hubs, in order to inform the completion of an environmental action plan.
- We will procure external expertise in carbon reduction and carbon offsetting in order to build our capacity and understanding on how to design action plans which will have the positive environmental impact required.
- Increase staff awareness of our carbon footprint measurement tool, our carbon emissions figure and action plans, as well as our commitment to ensuring accountability through our Quality Assurance Framework.
- We commit to transparency and accountability and will share our findings with our staff, partners, boards, volunteers and young people we work with.

2. GREENER PROGRAMMING

Our programmatic work has the opportunity and should contribute positively to sustainable development and the environment. Our programmes operate in countries which are most vulnerable to the effects of environmental degradation and climate change. We therefore must ensure that our programmes do no harm, and we must reflect on how appropriate greener practices can be incorporated into our work.

How we will achieve our commitments:

- We will take the required steps to turn our Programme Principles from commitments to action.
- As all environmental and sustainable development discussions have an inherent inter-generational element, we will continue, through our model to empower young people to take a lead role in the decisions that affect them most.
- As critical individuals within our Restless Model, we will integrate sustainable development messaging in to all our volunteer training programmes.
- We will be open to new ideas and solutions that contribute to sustainable development.

3. BUILDING OUR INTERNAL CAPACITY

In order to maintain a legitimate voice in addressing the sustainability challenge in the youth-led sector, we must ensure that our internal practices reflect our commitment to sustainable development. A significant part of this is ensuring that we build the capacity of our staff to positively contribute to the environment.

How we will achieve our commitments:

- In order to raise internal awareness of environment and sustainability issues, an induction on the environment, climate breakdown and our approach to reducing our negative impact at Restless Development will be included in our Restless Way induction package.
- Through our internal communications platforms and our social media networks, we will actively sensitise and raise awareness about climate change and environmental issues with our global staff.
- Restless Development will propose the creation of a Green Network at our next annual Directors Conference (October 2019), to be made up of staff located in each of our Hubs, who will act as a formal network who will lead the delivery of our Agency Plan commitments, promote learning opportunities and champion good practice at the Hub level.

4. SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS DECISIONS

Our financial decisions have implications for the environment. Restless Development's financial decisions should reflect ethical and sustainable behaviour to support sustainable development. We commit to researching and understanding these implications further to inform and guide future policies and practices which reflect our commitment to sustainable development.

How we will achieve our commitments:

- We will build on or progress and successes in this area, by reviewing and assessing how sustainable development principles can be included in relevant decision-making processes on:
 - Partnerships
 - Banking and investments

- Suppliers and procurement processes

5. OUR RESTLESS NETWORK

At Restless Development we pride ourselves on our ability to nurture young global citizens who take action and find solutions to the world's most urgent problems. We acknowledge that sustainable development, including climate change, is one of the world's most pressing issues which will have growing implications for young people, and we therefore commit to empowering our network to advocate for green initiatives at the local, national and global level.

How we will achieve our commitments:

- We will support our network to act in an environmentally sustainable manner, both whilst contributing to Restless Development programmes and in their individual personal lives.
- We will use utilise our organisational leverage to advocate for environmental action as appropriate within the context of our strategy
- We will share with and learn from our network to drive our shared success and to adapt and shape our Environment commitments and approach as new expertise and approaches are developed.