


ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

	CROSS-CUTTING POLICY		
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POLICY

World Accord will incorporate environmentally sustainable considerations into all projects and promote an awareness of the relationships among development, the environment and the health of the community. World Accord’s environmental policy encourages the sustainable use of a community’s resources through awareness of and regard for ecosystems and biodiversity. Striving to incorporate such factors into WA projects can result in a balanced position on development that advances the sustainability of our partners, promotes the protection and maintains the dynamic balance of their environment and provides a framework for developmental education efforts.

Policy details

To the extent possible within our limited resources and as appropriate given the wide range of projects, World Accord shall:

1. Support our partners in developing environmentally sound programs such as sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, as opportunities arise;
2. Endeavor to ensure that environmental implications are assessed in keeping with the scope of the project when considering any project;
3. Endeavor, within the scope of the project, to build into projects the capacity to assess and monitor the likely impacts of a project at a local (or infrequently regional) scale;
4. Plan to mitigate any negative impacts as well as take advantage of (or reinforce) any environmental benefits of a project.
5. Promote education and awareness among Canadians but also abroad of the importance of environmentally sustainable approaches to development and the relationships among development, the environment and the health of the community.

Policy background

This policy is grounded in our shared vision of global social justice, human dignity and participation for all. Our policies are designed to meet WA's internal needs as an organization, however they are guided by ideals about anti-oppression, human rights, international cooperation, and the appropriate meeting of human needs articulated in a multitude of places by multilateral bodies, states, and civil society

groups. All WA policies and activities are informed by our Vision, Mission, Mandate, and Strategic Directions. Mindfulness of the spirit and letter of these documents is central to the integrity of our organization, as is compliance with the Cooperation Canada (formerly Canadian Council for International Co-operation) Code of Ethics, the Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness and OCIC's Anti-Oppression Policy and Women's Rights and Gender Equality Policy.

Policy Principle

This policy is a living document that is meant to be re-examined and updated as part of an evolving process which will reflect changes in thinking surrounding environmental stewardship. This policy aims to inform and increase our commitment to incorporating environmental stewardship into our decision making and behavior systems. WA commits to minimizing its environmental footprint and to reducing the environmental impact of its operations. WA will strive to ensure that all programs and activities are designed, implemented and monitored in a manner that integrates environmental stewardship best practices and considerations.

Definitions For the purposes of this policy

Environmental Sustainability is the long-term maintenance of ecological well-being through responsible use of natural resources and protection of biodiversity.

Environmental Stewardship is the informed and responsible actions and behaviours required to ensure that environmental quality is maintained locally, regionally, and globally.

Strategies

To ensure compliance with this policy, WA staff, Board Directors and volunteers will strive to meet the following recommendations when implementing WA programs and activities:

a. Event Planning & Programming

- Prioritize technology to minimize total environmental impact of face-to-face events (e.g. offer webinars and online events on a regular basis to minimize excessive travel emissions, food related waste and printing).
- Use reusable dishware and cutlery wherever possible, with the ultimate goal of eliminating use of single use/disposable products.
- Communicate with and encourage event partners to adhere to environmental best practices.
- Circulate and share documents electronically reasonably to minimize excessive printing.
- Minimize the "gloss and glitter" or the consumption of unnecessary items or services.

b. Travel

- Prioritize sustainable travel options whenever possible, including public transit, carpooling, train, walking, cycling, etc.
- Coordinate travel dates within regions to minimize the number of individual trips, especially those that involve air travel.
- Contribute to offset carbon footprint when travelling. To do so, anyone can donate to WA's Climate Adaptation Fund. Donations will go to WA-supported projects that work with smallholder farmers on techniques to adapt to climate change and improve their ability to feed themselves, their families, and their communities. To help with this, we will provide with links to carbon calculators that give an idea of

how our various activities impact the environment. We suggest a donation of \$25/tonne, which reflects the market for offset-type payments.

Purchasing

- Eliminate unnecessary purchases, reduce purchases of products with excessive packaging, and minimize purchases of disposable or single-use products.
- Purchase energy-efficient goods (e.g. computer monitors, printers, LED bulbs, etc.).
- Purchase fair trade, organic, local and/or in-season food/catering, whenever feasible/possible.
- Purchase earth-friendly office supplies and cleaning products (e.g. recycled-content paper with reputable eco-friendly recognition, biodegradable cleaners).

Energy & Waste

- Minimize energy consumption through daily practice (turn lights and monitors off, use natural light, utilize programmable thermostats to minimize heating and cooling, encourage seasonal clothing).
- Reduce waste, recycle and compost whenever possible.
- Dispose of non-traditional waste safely (batteries, toner, electronic goods).
- Utilize scrap paper and double-sided printing to its fullest capacity, and minimize unnecessary printing (minimize colour printing).

Embedding Environmental Culture

- Ensure that all WA staff, Board Directors and volunteers are aware of this policy and understand how it relates to their organizational roles and responsibilities.
- Give weight to environmental impact as a key factor in operational decision-making (collaborate with partners and suppliers who share similar environmental stewardship values).
- Support the development and implementation of management and operation guidelines which enable the principles of this policy (e.g. factoring environmental considerations into procurement processes; promoting good practices such as repairing, reusing, recycling, minimizing waste and conserving electricity, wherever possible).
- Create a supportive environment that encourages good environmental decision-making (making reusable dishes available to staff and at WA initiatives).
- Promote and encourage environmental educational opportunities for staff, Board Directors, volunteers, members and stakeholders (make time for environmental assessments and discussions; offer webinars or other awareness and capacity building sessions).
- Make use of partnerships, networks and coalitions to support the process of documenting and disseminating information and best practices on the impact of climate change, natural resource degradation and extreme weather events, in Canada and globally.