

Environmental Policy

Directive 1/2020

Date of approval of last revision	01/03/2021
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Document owner	Process Manager
Available languages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Czech <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English
Acknowledgment	The policy was originally an adapted version of Caritas Lebanon Environmental Policy. CCR is thankful to Caritas Lebanon for the support in developing this policy.

1 Policy Statement and Purpose

Climate change, as a consequence of human impact on the environment, has and will further have a significant influence on our lives, both in the Czech Republic and abroad. Caritas Czech Republic (CCR) acknowledges the critical social and economic importance of environmental stewardship and the need to consider this subject as an integral part of its strategic decision-making process and day-to-day operations.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Formalize CCR's commitment to environmental awareness and accountability.
- Promote awareness of environmental responsibility within the organization.
- Provide general guidance to CCR staff members so that CCR programs and activities are planned and implemented in environmentally sustainable way.

1.1 Approach

CCR's approach to its environmental responsibility is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes the critical importance of environmental sustainability.¹ It is also based on the encyclicals *Laudato Si'* (2015) and *Fratelli tutti* (2020), which highlight the importance of environmental protection.²

2 Environmental Protection

CCR recognizes its responsibility to manage the nature and scale of environmental impact of its activities and services. The fundamental philosophy that should be followed in all CCR actions in order to make them environmentally-conscious is the principle of 3R – reduce, reuse, recycle.

2.1 General Objectives

Within the framework of this policy, CCR shall endeavour to focus on the following:

- Contribute generally to the improvement of the local, national and global environment.
- Actively comply with all relevant local, national and global environmental laws, regulations, policy mechanisms, and approved codes of practice.

¹ Find out more about the individual Sustainable Development Goals [here](#).

² Both encyclicals can be accessed [here](#).

- Promote the principles of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

2.2 Staff awareness and workplace management

CCR acknowledges that in order to fulfil its environmental commitments, it must lead by example and therefore the change must first come from within the organization itself. It shall:

- Raise staff awareness about the organization's environmental impact, and encourage participation in trainings on the topic, both internal and external.
- Promote individual good practice in the use of the organization's premises.
- Provide safe and healthful workplace and ensure that all employees are provided with the information and tools necessary to implement responsible environmental practices.
- Prevent over-consumption of energy and other resources by introducing energy and water saving measures, and explore the use of renewable energy.
- Reduce the overall production of waste and create sustainable waste management system to treat all waste properly, especially hazardous waste.
- Avoid use of environmentally damaging substances and processes.
- Ensure that the management of the organization's grounds and building encompasses best environmental practice in all maintenance works.
- Purchase goods that are environment friendly, including items that are energy efficient, locally produced and made from recycled and/or renewable materials. When possible, tender to suppliers that are local and/or committed to environmental sustainability.

2.3 Project design and implementation

Environmental considerations are especially important during the design of projects and their implementation, as communities we work with are far more dramatically affected by the climate change and related consequences. Considering this, CCR shall:

- Implement environmentally preferable choices when planning projects, purchasing supplies and services.
- Conduct Impact and Risk assessments in the planning stage with focus on the environmental footprint of the project.
- Focus on environmental mainstreaming throughout the project and follow various donors' recommendations and requirements regarding environmental issues.

2.4 Travel

Emissions generated by international and domestic travel have significant negative impact on the environment. CCR shall endeavour to reduce the carbon footprint of its staff by following these recommendations:

- Use technology solutions for video meetings to reduce air and car travel and eliminate unnecessary journeys.
- Travel in groups to share cars, and plan trips so that they are connected to avoid multiple trips.
- Where possible, opt for public transportation, particularly for trains.

In addition to the above mentioned engagements, CCR commits to continual improvement of its environmental practices. The organization's progress will be monitored and its targets regularly updated.

2.5 Roles and Responsibilities

Responsibility for compliance with CCR's Environmental Policy lies with all CCR staff, including staff at missions. All managers must ensure that staff are sufficiently supported in the implementation of this policy and that appropriate systems are in place. All human and financial resources required to implement this policy will be provided.

3 List of abbreviations

CCR	Caritas Czech Republic
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