



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

APPLICABILITY	AOG World Relief Vietnam Team (Staff) Members, Volunteers, Visitors & Project Partners
VERSION	1
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SECTION 1:

COMMITMENT, PURPOSE & STANDARDS

1. OUR COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

AOG World Relief Vietnam acknowledges that environmental sustainability is linked to our faith as stewards of God's creation. When we blindly engage in consumerism and overconsumption of natural resources, we rob others of their share of God's creation. Unequal access and overconsumption of resources also denies the poor their livelihood and leads to ecological imbalance and increasing natural disasters. However, when we use our resources wisely, we protect the poor who will be the first affected and least able to adapt to the effects of climate change and other environmental degradation.

Therefore, we are committed to becoming an environmentally conscious and proactive organisation and helping all our partners to be the same. AOG World Relief Vietnam (hereon after referred to as AOGWR Vietnam) therefore promotes and supports programming to enable affected communities to adapt to the damaging impacts of climate change on their lives and livelihoods.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of AOGWR Vietnam's Environmental Sustainability Policy is to outline our commitment to the environment within both AOGWR Vietnam's internal operations and the way we work with partners. This policy aims to achieve this by:

1. demonstrating AOGWR Vietnam's commitment and approaches to environmental sustainability;
2. outlining the expectations and responsibilities of AOGWR Vietnam stakeholders; and
3. providing guidance to stakeholders on how to meet good practice standards.

3. STANDARDS & GUIDANCE

AOGWR Vietnam has an obligation to act within the laws of the Vietnam in which we operate, as well as to hold duty-bearers within Vietnam, particularly the provinces of Da Nang and Quang Nam, accountable for providing environmental integrity for right holders.

The Sustainable Development Goals (2015), while non-binding, are also relevant as an agreed international agenda for advancing development in ways that protect the right for people to live and work in healthy environments.

SECTION 2:

SCOPE, COMMITMENTS & STRATEGIES

4. SCOPE

Those who fall within the scope below are required to read, sign, and adhere to the **AOGWR Vietnam Environmental Sustainability Policy**.

This policy applies to AOGWR Vietnam key stakeholders as defined below:

- All AOGWR Vietnam Team (Staff) Members.
- All AOGWR Vietnam Advisory Board Members.

This policy is recommended for other AOGWR Vietnam stakeholders as defined below:

- AOGWR Vietnam Volunteers including but not limited to office and event-based volunteers.
- AOGWR Vietnam Partnering Agencies including but not limited to government departments, consultants, and contractors.

5. AOGWR VIETNAM'S INTERNAL COMMITMENTS AND STRATEGIES:

AOGWR Vietnam is committed to:

- Reducing our **energy consumption** through energy saving initiatives and behaviour including:
 - the use of LED bulbs for lighting throughout the majority of our office;
 - turning off master fuse switches at the end of each day and unplugging appliances when not in use; and
 - making environmentally conscious decisions when replacing appliances. This could include installing air conditioners with high energy saving ratings.
- Reducing our usage of **materials and amount of waste** disposal by:
 - reducing our paper consumption to a bare minimum – while Australia and other nations work towards becoming paperless, this is not possible in Vietnam given their current requirements for 3 – 10 certified copies of each document required for any project or even funds transfer;
 - consider the effect on the environment when collecting information, images and stories and make efforts to reduce our carbon footprint;
 - producing our promotional material online instead of using paper: and
 - recycling and reusing as much as possible in our office.

- Reducing the impact our **travel** has on the environment by:
 - analysing the mode and frequency of our travel, and to reconsider whether travel is essential; and
 - utilised shared transport options for shipment or delivery of goods.

- Providing **education** to all staff members including topics such as:
 - ways to reduce our carbon footprint; and
 - ethical and environmental consumerism.

- **Evaluating our environmental impact** and improving our environmental sustainability by:
 - continuing to make changes to the culture and behaviour of our organisation;
 - encouraging one of our team to be the focal person in the organisation to ensure we meet these commitments; and
 - assessing our organisational performance on an annual basis.

- Wherever possible, incorporate into **program strategies**:
 - climate change mitigation, adaptation, and impact;
 - disaster risk reduction; and
 - environmental impact goals.

6. REVIEWING THE POLICY

AOGWR Vietnam’s Environmental Sustainability Policy and Code of Conduct will be **reviewed every three years**. AOGWR Vietnam management (Program Director/s or Program Managers) will manage the review and stakeholders will be consulted during this process.

7. COMMITMENT

I, _____, have read and understood the above AOGWR Vietnam Environmental Sustainability Policy and agree to adhere to it and the associated procedures in their entirety.

Signed: _____

Date: _____