

V-Aid (Virtual Aid)

Environmental Policy



Environmental Policy approved by Trustees on
18/12/25

The policy will be subject to an annual review.

Signed: *C.L.* (Christin Lau on behalf of Trustees)



Environmental Policy

Our Commitment

V-Aid is dedicated to minimising its environmental impact and promoting sustainability in all its activities. Through the ViCeR project and its programs, we integrate eco-conscious practices into our operations, from the production of humanitarian aid to training and volunteer engagement.

Our aim is to operate responsibly, reduce waste, and educate volunteers, inmates, and communities about sustainable practices, ensuring our work benefits both people and the planet.

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- Staff and Volunteers: All individuals involved in V-Aid's activities, including those working on ViCeR projects.
- Programs and Projects: All V-Aid initiatives, such as ERP, VFR, ViR, and ViC, as well as associated training programs.
- Partnerships and Collaborations: All external organisations and partners working with V-Aid.

Environmental Principles

1. Sustainability:

- Incorporate sustainable practices into all aspects of V-Aid's work, including production, distribution, and training.
- Strive to achieve zero-waste operations, particularly through the redistribution of unused food parcels and materials.

2. Waste Reduction and Recycling:

- Prioritise the use of recyclable, reusable, and biodegradable materials in all programs.
- Implement strict recycling practices in partnership with HMP Swansea and other collaborators.

3. Carbon Footprint Minimisation:

- Use efficient transportation and logistics for the delivery of aid parcels, reducing emissions.
- Opt for locally sourced materials and suppliers wherever possible to limit transportation impacts.

4. Education and Awareness:

- Train staff, volunteers, and inmates on sustainable practices, from waste reduction to energy efficiency.
- Incorporate environmental awareness into all humanitarian response courses, empowering participants to carry sustainable practices into their future roles.

Environmental Practices in ViCeR Programs

1. Emergency Response Parcels (ERP):

- Use sustainable packaging for all freeze-dried food parcels and hygiene kits.
- Implement a policy to redistribute unused parcels with six months of shelf life to food banks, preventing waste.

2. ViCeR Food Relief (VFR):

- Focus on producing long-shelf-life freeze-dried food parcels that require minimal resources to store and transport.
- Reduce environmental impact through energy-efficient freeze-drying methods.
- Re distribute Amazon items that would of gone into landfill

3. ViCeR Inmate Release (ViR):

- Encourage sustainable practices in the production of ViR packages for released inmates, such as using eco-friendly supplies.
- Train inmates on waste management and sustainability as part of their preparation for reintegration.
- Re distribute Amazon items that would have gone into landfill.

4. Veterans in Crisis (ViC):

- Engage veterans and volunteers in environmentally responsible roles, such as managing logistics in a sustainable way.
- Use the expertise of veterans to promote eco-friendly practices in emergency response activities.
- Re distribute Amazon items that would have gone into landfill.

5. Training and Humanitarian Courses:

- Integrate environmental education into all accredited courses, teaching volunteers and inmates to prioritise sustainability in their work.
- Highlight the importance of environmental stewardship in both local and global humanitarian efforts.

Implementation and Actions

1. Reducing Energy Consumption:

- Use energy-efficient equipment and processes in all facilities, including HMP Swansea workshops.
- Monitor energy use and seek ways to improve efficiency across all operations.

2. Sustainable Procurement:

- Source materials and supplies from environmentally responsible vendors.
- Prioritise products with minimal packaging and reduced environmental impact.

3. Eco-Friendly Logistics:

- Plan transportation routes to minimise emissions.
- Collaborate with partners to combine efforts and reduce the need for duplicate journeys.

4. Community Engagement:

- Partner with local organisations to promote sustainability in the communities we serve.
- Share best practices and encourage sustainable habits among aid recipients, volunteers, and partner groups.

Monitoring and Accountability

1. Tracking Progress:

- Regularly monitor and review environmental performance, including waste reduction, energy use, and emissions.
- Collect feedback from staff, volunteers, and partners to identify areas for improvement.

2. Reporting:

- Publish an annual environmental impact report, detailing achievements, challenges, and goals for the future.

3. Continuous Improvement:

- Commit to refining policies and practices to enhance sustainability as new opportunities and technologies emerge.

Commitment to Global and Local Sustainability

V-Aid's environmental policy reflects our commitment to supporting A Resilient Wales and A Globally Responsible Wales, as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015). By integrating sustainable practices into all aspects of our work, we aim to protect the environment while delivering critical aid and empowering communities.

Through our efforts, we seek to inspire volunteers, inmates, and partners to champion sustainability in their own lives and work, ensuring a brighter, more resilient future for all.