

V-Aid (Victual Aid) Environmental Policy



**Environmental Policy approved by Trustees on
13/10/26**

The policy will be subject to an annual review.

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



Environmental Policy

1. Purpose

V-Aid is committed to operating responsibly and to reducing the environmental impact of its activities where reasonably practical.

We recognise that our humanitarian and community work involves purchasing, packaging, transport, storage and the use of partner venues, and we aim to manage these activities in a sensible and proportionate way.

This policy sets out the general principles V-Aid will follow.

2. Our approach

V-Aid will seek, where practical, to:

- avoid unnecessary waste;
- use resources efficiently;
- reduce unnecessary journeys;
- make sensible purchasing choices;
- reuse or recycle materials where appropriate;
- avoid disposing of usable food or goods unnecessarily;
- consider environmental impact when planning activities.

Environmental considerations will be balanced with safety, food hygiene, safeguarding, cost, operational practicality and the needs of beneficiaries.

3. Community Humanitarian Response activities

V-Aid's Community Humanitarian Response model often uses existing partner premises rather than requiring separate permanent facilities for every activity.

Where practical, this can help reduce:

- unnecessary building overheads;
- duplication of facilities;

- additional travel by participants;
- unnecessary use of resources.

When planning activities, V-Aid will consider practical ways to reduce waste and use equipment and materials efficiently.

4. Travel and transport

Transport is necessary for much of V-Aid's work.

Where reasonably practical, V-Aid may seek to:

- plan journeys efficiently;
- combine deliveries or activities where suitable;
- avoid unnecessary duplicate journeys;
- use appropriate vehicles for the amount being transported;
- coordinate transport with partner organisations where this is practical.

Operational needs, safeguarding, time, accessibility and cost will also be taken into account.

5. Food and material waste

V-Aid will seek to minimise unnecessary waste.

This may include:

- careful planning of quantities;
- appropriate storage and stock rotation;
- monitoring use-by or best-before dates;
- redistributing suitable food or donated goods where appropriate;
- reusing materials where safe and practical;
- separating recyclable waste where suitable facilities are available.

Food safety and beneficiary safety will always take priority over waste reduction.

6. Packaging

V-Aid uses packaging to protect food and humanitarian supplies and to meet hygiene, safety and storage requirements.

Where practical and appropriate, V-Aid may consider:

- recyclable materials;
- reduced packaging;
- reusable containers or equipment;
- suppliers offering lower-waste options.

Packaging decisions will also take account of:

- food safety;
- shelf life;
- contamination risk;
- durability;
- transport requirements;
- cost;
- availability.

V-Aid will not compromise food safety or operational effectiveness solely to reduce packaging.

7. Purchasing and suppliers

Where practical, V-Aid will consider environmental factors when purchasing goods and services.

This may include:

- avoiding unnecessary purchases;
- buying quantities appropriate to likely use;
- considering packaging;
- reducing waste;
- using local or regional suppliers where suitable and cost-effective;
- considering reusable or durable equipment where appropriate.

Environmental considerations will be balanced against quality, affordability, safety and availability.

8. Donated and surplus goods

Where V-Aid receives donated, surplus or redistributed goods, we will seek to use or pass them on appropriately where they are safe and suitable.

This can help reduce unnecessary waste while providing useful support to people and partner organisations.

Items that are unsuitable, unsafe or cannot reasonably be used will be disposed of appropriately.

9. Energy and premises

Where V-Aid uses its own facilities or equipment, reasonable steps will be taken to avoid unnecessary energy use.

Where activities take place at partner premises, V-Aid will work within the host organisation's arrangements.

V-Aid does not seek to impose separate environmental systems on partner organisations where this would be unnecessary or impractical.

10. Staff and volunteers

Staff and volunteers are encouraged to use resources responsibly and avoid unnecessary waste.

Relevant environmental considerations may be included in activity briefings where appropriate.

V-Aid does not expect volunteers to become environmental specialists, but everyone can contribute through sensible use of materials, equipment and resources.

11. Working with partner organisations

V-Aid works with a wide range of charities, community organisations, public bodies, faith organisations and other partners.

Where appropriate, V-Aid will respect and work within the environmental or waste arrangements of the host organisation.

Environmental considerations should support partnership working rather than create unnecessary barriers to delivery.

12. Balancing environmental and humanitarian needs

V-Aid's primary purpose is humanitarian and community support.

There may be circumstances where safety, food hygiene, safeguarding, emergency response, accessibility or the needs of people in crisis require decisions that are not the lowest-impact environmental option.

In such circumstances, V-Aid will seek a reasonable balance between environmental responsibility and effective charitable delivery.

13. Monitoring and improvement

V-Aid will keep its environmental practices under review and may make improvements where these are practical and proportionate.

This may be informed by:

- operational experience;
- staff or volunteer feedback;
- partner feedback;
- changes in suppliers or materials;
- new opportunities to reduce waste;
- changes in relevant guidance or funding requirements.

V-Aid does not commit to fixed environmental targets unless these are specifically agreed for a particular project or programme.

14. Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically and may be updated where:

- V-Aid's activities change;
- practical improvements become available;
- relevant requirements change;
- experience shows that amendments would be useful.

15. Related policies

This policy should be read alongside relevant V-Aid policies and procedures, including:

- Health & Safety arrangements;
- Food Safety and Hygiene procedures;
- Volunteer Policy;

- Procurement or purchasing arrangements where applicable;
- relevant activity risk assessments.