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**Environmental Management Policy, Environmental
Action plan Carbon Reduction plan**

Building SEND Castles Ltd

1. Policy Statement

At Building SEND Castles Ltd, we are committed to promoting environmental sustainability and minimising our ecological footprint. We aim to model environmentally responsible practices to the children in our care and instil a respect for the natural world as part of their holistic development.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, visitors, and children. It covers all aspects of our service delivery, including premises use, resource management, and curriculum-related environmental activities.

3. Objectives

We aim to:

- Reduce waste and promote recycling and reuse
- Minimise energy and water consumption
- Choose environmentally friendly products and suppliers where possible
- Incorporate environmental awareness into the curriculum and daily routines
- Maintain outdoor spaces in a safe and eco-friendly manner
- Engage children in caring for their environment in age-appropriate ways
- Comply with all relevant environmental regulations

4. Implementation Measures

Waste Reduction

- Use reusable or recyclable materials where possible
- Reduce single-use plastics in activities and meals/snacks
- Provide clearly labelled recycling bins for paper, plastics, and food waste

Energy Efficiency

- Encourage lights and appliances to be switched off when not in use
- Use energy-efficient bulbs and appliances
- Keep heating and air-conditioning at efficient levels

Water Conservation

- Ensure taps are turned off properly after use
- Use water-saving devices where appropriate
- Teach children the importance of conserving water

5. Curriculum and Activities

- Children will participate in nature-based learning and discussions about environmental care
- Opportunities such as planting, recycling games, and nature walks will promote ecological awareness
- SEN and communication needs will be considered in all environmental education activities to ensure accessibility

6. Purchasing and Suppliers

- Where possible, purchase resources from ethical, local, or environmentally responsible suppliers
- Avoid products with excessive packaging
- Prioritise the use of non-toxic, biodegradable cleaning and art supplies

7. Partnerships and Community Involvement

- Work with the local community on green initiatives
- Engage with families and carers to promote sustainable practices at home

8. Monitoring and Review

- Environmental practices will be reviewed annually
- Staff are encouraged to bring forward ideas to improve sustainability
- The CEO and Health and Safety Coordinator will monitor compliance with this policy
- Directors also receive updates on environmental commitments

See Attached:

Environmental Action Plan & Carbon Reduction Plan

Building SEND Castles Ltd

Environmental Action Plan & Carbon Reduction Plan

Introduction

Building SEND Castles Ltd is committed to embedding environmental sustainability into every aspect of our operation. We recognise our responsibility to reduce carbon emissions and promote ecological awareness, both for the wider community and as part of the holistic development of the children we support. Our Environmental Policy forms the foundation for this action plan, which sets out practical steps, targets, and monitoring processes to reduce our environmental impact.

1. Organisational Oversight

- **Responsibility:** The CEO has overall responsibility for environmental management and sustainability actions.
- **Governance:** Environmental objectives and progress are reported annually to directors.
- **Staff Engagement:** All staff are trained on environmental practices and encouraged to suggest improvements.

2. Key Environmental Impacts

Area	Current Status	Planned Actions	Target / Timeline
Energy Use (Electricity & Heating)	Small office and learning spaces; energy-efficient lighting used	- Ensure lights/appliances off when not in use - Switch to LED bulbs where not already installed - Optimise heating schedules for efficiency	Reduce electricity use by 10% by Dec 2027
Water Consumption	Standard taps; children taught to turn off taps	- Fit water-saving devices if appropriate - Continue teaching children water conservation	Reduce water use by 5% by Dec 2027

Waste Management	Recycling bins available for paper, plastics, food waste; minimal single-use items	- Reduce single-use plastics further - Reuse craft materials - Record and monitor recycling quantities	Divert 90% of waste from landfill by Dec 2027
Travel / Transport	Staff travel by car to site; children occasionally walked to nearby park	- Encourage walking or cycling where safe - Minimise non-essential car travel - Risk-assessed walks to park/nature reserve for environmental education	Reduce travel-related emissions by 20% by Dec 2027
Procurement & Supplies	Small-scale purchasing of art materials, cleaning products	- Prioritise ethical, low-carbon suppliers - Avoid excess packaging - Switch to non-toxic, biodegradable materials	Where reasonably practicable, source supplies from ethical, local or environmentally responsible suppliers and review purchasing decisions annually.
Outdoor & Nature Education	Small garden and access to park/nature reserve	- Regular nature-based learning activities - Children participate in planting, litter picks, and conservation tasks - Embed environmental awareness into daily routines	Weekly engagement with outdoor sustainability activities

3. Practical Actions

- **Energy:** Monitor electricity usage monthly; switch to renewable energy supplier when feasible.
- **Travel:** Use local nature reserve and park on foot to reduce vehicle use. Consider pooled staff trips for any essential travel.
- **Waste:** Maintain clearly labelled recycling bins; reuse materials for craft and learning activities.

- **Purchasing:** Review suppliers annually to ensure low-carbon, environmentally responsible choices.
- **Children Engagement:** Activities such as planting, litter picking, and environmental-themed play support learning and reduce waste.
- **Monitoring:** CEO and Health & Safety Coordinator to review actions quarterly, reporting annually to directors.

4. Key Targets

1. Reduce electricity consumption by 10% by December 2027.
2. Reduce water consumption by 5% by December 2027.
3. Reduce travel-related carbon emissions by 20% by December 2027.
4. Divert at least 90% of operational waste from landfill by December 2027.
5. Where reasonably practicable, increase the use of ethical, local and environmentally responsible suppliers and review purchasing decisions annually.

5. Long-Term Goals

- Work towards a **carbon net zero operation by 2030**, in line with Suffolk County Council's climate emergency objectives.
- Embed environmental sustainability into all aspects of the curriculum and operational procedures.
- Regularly review and update the action plan to incorporate new technologies, guidance, and community initiatives.

