

Hypo Hounds Environmental Impact Policy

Introduction

Hypo Hounds recognises that protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility. As a national charity providing Diabetic Alert Assistance Dogs and Medical Therapy Dogs to children living with Type 1 Diabetes, we are committed to operating in a way that minimises our environmental impact whilst continuing to deliver life-changing services.

Although our primary purpose is improving the health and wellbeing of children and families, we acknowledge that our day-to-day activities have an environmental footprint. We are committed to continually improving our environmental performance, reducing waste, conserving resources and promoting sustainable practices throughout the charity.

Our Commitment

Hypo Hounds is committed to:

- Complying with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.
- Continually improving our environmental performance.
- Preventing pollution wherever reasonably practicable.
- Using resources responsibly.
- Considering environmental impacts when making purchasing decisions.
- Encouraging staff, volunteers and supporters to adopt environmentally responsible behaviours.
- Reviewing our environmental objectives annually.

Our Environmental Objectives

We aim to:

- Reduce our overall carbon footprint.
 - Minimise unnecessary travel.
 - Reduce waste sent to landfill.
 - Increase recycling across all areas of the charity.
 - Purchase environmentally responsible products wherever possible.
 - Reduce energy and water consumption.
 - Extend the life of equipment through repair and reuse.
 - Encourage suppliers to demonstrate sustainable practices.
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Energy Efficiency

Hypo Hounds will seek to minimise energy consumption by:

- Turning off lights, computers and electrical equipment when not in use.
 - Purchasing energy-efficient appliances where budgets allow.
 - Making the best use of natural lighting.
 - Monitoring energy usage at our premises.
 - Using programmable heating systems where available.
 - Encouraging hybrid and flexible working where operationally appropriate.
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Travel and Transport

As a charity operating across the South East, travel is essential for home visits, training sessions, fundraising and service delivery.

To reduce environmental impact, we will:

- Use Microsoft Teams and other online meeting platforms whenever practical.
- Combine journeys wherever possible.
- Carefully plan routes to reduce unnecessary mileage.
- Maintain charity vehicles to maximise fuel efficiency.
- Consider lower-emission vehicles when replacing the fleet, subject to funding.

The welfare of our assistance dogs will always remain the priority when making transport decisions.

Waste Management

Hypo Hounds will aim to reduce waste by:

- Following the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
 - Recycling paper, cardboard, plastics, cans and glass wherever facilities exist.
 - Reusing training equipment wherever safe and appropriate.
 - Donating surplus equipment that can still be used.
 - Purchasing reusable items instead of disposable alternatives where possible.
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Paper Reduction

We will work towards reducing paper usage by:

- Using electronic records wherever possible.
 - Sending digital invoices, newsletters and reports.
 - Encouraging electronic signatures.
 - Printing only when necessary on recycled paper.
 - Printing double-sided where practical.
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Purchasing

When purchasing goods and services we will consider:

- Environmental credentials.
- Durability and lifespan.
- Repairability.
- Packaging.
- Recycled content.
- Ethical sourcing.
- Local suppliers where appropriate to reduce transportation emissions.

Price, quality and suitability will continue to be balanced alongside environmental considerations.

Dog Welfare and Environmental Responsibility

The welfare of our assistance dogs will never be compromised by environmental initiatives.

However, we will seek environmentally responsible approaches by:

- Selecting durable training equipment with long service lives.
 - Repairing equipment when safe and practical.
 - Recycling suitable materials.
 - Responsibly disposing of worn equipment.
 - Reducing unnecessary deliveries through consolidated ordering.
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Events and Fundraising

When organising fundraising events we will:

- Reduce single-use plastics where possible.
 - Encourage reusable water bottles.
 - Minimise printed promotional materials.
 - Use recyclable or biodegradable materials where practical.
 - Work with venues that demonstrate environmental responsibility where possible.
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Biodiversity

As a charity working closely with dogs, outdoor spaces and communities, we recognise the importance of protecting natural environments.

We will:

- Respect local wildlife during training activities.
- Dispose of dog waste responsibly in biodegradable poo bags.
- Leave outdoor training locations clean and litter free.
- Promote responsible access to public spaces.

Monitoring

The charity will review:

- Energy consumption.
- Waste management practices.
- Paper usage.
- Travel practices.
- Purchasing decisions.

Environmental performance will be reviewed annually by the Chief Executive Officer and reported to the Board of Trustees where appropriate.

Continuous Improvement

Hypo Hounds recognises that environmental sustainability is an ongoing process. As the charity grows and develops, we will continue to identify opportunities to reduce our environmental impact while ensuring that the safety, welfare and quality of our services remain our highest priority.

Together, we can help protect not only the children and families we support today, but also the environment for future generations.

Document Control

Approved By: Chief Executive – Jane Pearman

Review Frequency: Annually

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