

Environmental Policy



As a young people's organisation it is important that BYT adopts and implements a policy that promotes good environmental practice. This policy aims to develop a more structured, managed approach to the environment and the way BYT operates in relation to sustainability. BYT recognises that for this policy to be effective it will need the support of everyone associated with the organisation including Trustees, contracted staff, volunteers and participants.

The **guiding principles** of this policy are to:

- help protect the environment
- help conserve the Earth's resources
- create a better and safer working environment

Priorities

Paper

Contrary to the expected trend towards the "paperless office" paper consumption continues to rise. Paper and printing is therefore a major purchasing cost that can be brought down quite easily by reduction, re-use and recycling.

Where possible, recycled papers should be purchased. These are readily available at equivalent quality, "printability", appearance and range as virgin papers. The use of the latter raises a number of key environmental issues such as loss of natural habitat, damage to the water table, high chemical and energy use in manufacture and detrimental effects from the land filling or incineration of paper waste.

Printing of e-mails etc should be kept to a minimum. Consider printing only key pages of reports. Although it will be necessary to have at least one paper copy of all policies, forms etc., where possible, these will be made available for inspection via the website.

Where possible, photocopying and publications will be produced in double-sided format. Collect all paper that has been printed on one side and re-use it for printing in draft or for scrap message pads.

There are major environmental benefits to be gained by recycling used paper rather than sending it to landfill or for incineration.

Energy

We will often have very little control over heating and lighting in hired premises. However, there are sensible steps which can be taken.

Switch off lights, including 'stage lights' that are not needed

Switch off lights when a room is empty and on leaving the building

Ensure doors and windows are kept closed in cold weather to reduce heat losses.

Where appropriate, ensure pc monitors are switched off when not in use

Materials

When props, costumes and scenery are being prepared, it is important that consideration is given to how they will be disposed of. In particular, low odour and water based paints should be used and brushes and equipment cleaned with as little impact on waste systems as possible.

At the end of a production, it is very tempting to gather everything together and dispose of as one lot. Where possible, materials which can be recycled should be separated and disposed of appropriately.

Conclusion

These proposals are not considered to be comprehensive and represent merely the first stage in creating a greater awareness of sustainable and green issues and how BYT as an organisation can address them. It is intended that the actions will be monitored and the policy reviewed on an annual basis.