## Environmental Policy for the Fingal Community Facilities









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## **Environmental Policy for** the Fingal Community Facilities



### KEEN TO BE GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY for the Fingal Community Facilities Network

Fingal community Facilities Network is committed to lowering its impact on the environment. To this end the Network has produced an Environmental policy which outlines the broad areas of activity that will be addressed in the Keen to Be Green Initiative.

### The main target areas are:

- 1. Waste.
- 2. Energy.
- 3. Water.
- 4. Transport.
- 5. Biodiversity.

These will be addressed in a systematic manner.

Following on from the principles of sustainable development the network is committed to providing solutions for its operators and members. The areas of activity will consider the impact on the local and global environment, the land and marine ecosystems, and natural resource-use without compromising these for future generations.

### Implementing the Environmental policy will :

- Strengthen the organisations environmental performance.
- Demand continuous improvement.
- Provide an opportunity to review practices.
- Promotion and awareness raising of the centre's environmental footprint.

### **Environmental Management**

The commitments assumed in this policy are related to the environmental objectives and targets in all of the community Facilities Network activities.



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The Fingal's Keen to Be Green Facilities Charter will be displayed in a public area in the community centre.

### WE COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING:

Waste Prevention and Management

- 1. Using best-practice methods for reducing and segregating waste.
- 2. Using consistent messaging and labelling of bins for raising awareness and creating a culture in the centres around sustainability and responsibility.
- 3. Reinforcing the sustainable message in social media and around the centre making it visible and normalising the behaviour.
- 4. Identifying the sources of wastes and working as a team to address waste.
- 5. Complying with legislation around waste, recycling and food waste, implementing a three-bin waste system for areas such as canteens, cafés, events in the centre, offices and public areas.
- 6. Working with suppliers to eliminate needless packaging and single-use items.
- 7. Maintaining an environmentally sustainable behaviour in the centre.
- 8. Planning and minimising waste from events, and having the centre supply reusable plates and cups for use at events. Single-use products will not be used.
- 9. Having cafés and shops present food and drink without using single-use products.
- 10. Making go cups (disposable cups) available for sale.
- **11.** Eliminating the sale of plastic bottles. Aluminium cans can be sold instead, as they are generally fully recycled and part of the circular economy.
- 12. Using compostable single-use cups only as a last resort, if desired.
- 13. Reducing office stationery and printing only when necessary.
- 14. Providing doggie-dispensers for the public, as per the Fingal Green Dog Walker Scheme.
- 15. Issuing litter pickers and bags to local people to collect litter.
- **16.** Using natural resources, raw materials and necessary inputs in a rational and sustainable way, ensuring their consistency in the value chain.
- **17.** Preventing pollution and environmental risks arising from activities, with the proper identification, evaluation and management of such risks in order to minimise their effects and mitigate their impacts.
- **18.** Investigating how the centre can use re-usable containers for cleaning products and other consumables.
- 19. Placing waste prevention and bin stations / events on the agenda for every monthly meeting with staff.
- **20.** Informing centre users of their obligation to comply with the Keen to Be Green Environmental policy. Obtaining a signature is the most effective way to gain a change to sustainable behaviour.
- **21.** Conducting waste management in such a way that it converges with the concepts of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.





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### **Energy & Water Use**

- Examining and reducing energy use. 1.
- Formulating and implementing an Energy Reduction Plan, as per an energy audit. 2.
- 3. Examining water use and reducing it where possible.
- 4. Introducing water harvesting where possible and using it in a sustainable manner.
- 5. Eliminating solvent use.
- 6. Using biodegradable chemicals rather than hazardous chemicals.
- 7. Examining chemical use and eliminating, as far as possible, the use of harsh hazardous chemicals for cleaning.
- 8. Complying with the applicable legislation concerning the Company's activities and services.
- 9. Meeting the voluntary commitments made by the network.
- 10. Implementing environmental programmes and actions that can be articulated with other sectors and institutions.
- **11.** Supporting scientific and technological development applied to environmental issues.
- 12. Promoting, whenever possible, the environmental development of third parties, suppliers and partners, so that they are compatible with the network's environmental policy.

### Transport

- 1. Promoting cycling and walking as part of the Sustainable Transport Initiative.
- 2. Providing bicycle parking for centre users. Parking shall be in a safe and prominent location and promoted to users.
- 3. Promoting active travel and encouraging users to walk to the centre.

### **Biodiversity**

- 1. Promoting actions to protect biodiversity and conserve springs and water courses.
- 2. Seeking to reduce or eliminate the use of weed killers. These are extremely harmful to the watercourse and the environment as a whole.
- 3. Using pollinator-friendly native trees, shrubs and bulbs in any landscaping projects around the centre.



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### **Continuous Improvement**

- 1. Continually seek to **improve environmental performance**, for example by doing a regular walk-around Providing sustainability training and assistance for all staff members.
- 2. Keeping the centre's users and members of the public informed through the use of consistent messaging and social media about the measures taken to reduce the environmental impact of the centre.
- **3.** Aiming for continuous improvement of environmental performance through management, periodic evaluations, innovations and technologies.
- 4. Implementing awareness, training and / or qualification programmes that lead to the adoption of safe, healthy and respectful behaviours by all employees, suppliers, partners, communities, users and other interested parties.

### Communication

- 1. Maintaining communication channels with stakeholders regarding environmental aspects and services. These will include centre users, suppliers and the wider public.
- 2. Ensuring the safety of the communities where the Company operates, as well as keeping such communities informed about the impacts and risks that may arise from the Company's activities;
- **3.** Promoting the dissemination of this Environmental policy to interested parties, seeking to ensure the compliance with such a policy.
- 4. Displaying the UN Sustainable Development Goals in a prominent place in the centre.

### Review

- 1. Holding an annual review that will explore the areas of activity.
- 2. Setting annual targets and tracking achievements through the Facilities Network.
- **3.** Enforcing the implementation of measures as agreed in a timely fashion, ensuring that centres failing to comply will risk losing the Green Star status for that activity.
- 4. The Facility Manager commits to running the centre in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- 5. Signed by Facility Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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