



Planning Aid **Wales**
Cymorth Cynllunio **Cymru**

Environmental Policy

Policy Status:	Adopted
Approved by:	Management Board
Date:	9 th March 2026

1. Purpose

1.1 Planning Aid Wales (PAW) is an independent charity that helps people understand and engage with the planning system in Wales. Through advice, training, research and community engagement, PAW supports communities to influence planning decisions and shape better places.

1.2 PAW recognises that environmental sustainability is central to the planning system and to wider policy in Wales, including the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

1.3 Wales and many public bodies have recognised the urgency of the climate and nature emergencies. Planning Aid Wales recognises that the planning system plays an important role in responding to these challenges by shaping sustainable development, protecting biodiversity and supporting resilient communities.

1.4 In delivering its services and managing its organisation, PAW is committed to minimising the environmental impact of its activities and promoting sustainable development.

2. Organisational commitments

2.1 Planning Aid Wales has signed the Welsh Government Sustainable Development Charter, is a member of the Placemaking Wales Partnership and is a signatory to the Placemaking Wales Charter.

2.2 In line with these commitments, PAW will:

- i. provide leadership on sustainable development within our organisation and through our work with communities
- ii. recognise the importance of addressing the climate and nature emergencies through sustainable planning and placemaking
- iii. embed environmental and sustainability considerations into organisational decision-making
- iv. promote continuous improvement in reducing the environmental impact of our activities
- v. encourage partners and organisations we work with to adopt sustainable practices
- vi. support the creation of sustainable, inclusive and well-designed places through the planning system

3. Operational approach

3.1 Planning Aid Wales will seek to minimise the environmental impact of its activities through practical measures including:

Resource use

- reducing waste and promoting reuse and recycling where possible
- minimising unnecessary printing and paper use
- considering environmental impacts when procuring goods and services.

Energy and facilities

- promoting efficient use of energy and resources in procurement for remote workers

Travel and events

- encouraging sustainable travel where practicable
- making appropriate use of online meetings and digital engagement to reduce travel where possible.

Programme delivery

- promoting awareness of environmental and climate considerations through our training, advice and community engagement activities
- supporting communities to understand environmental considerations within planning and development proposals.

4. Compliance and improvement

4.1 Planning Aid Wales will:

- i. comply with relevant environmental legislation and regulatory requirements
- ii. monitor environmental impacts associated with our operations where proportionate
- iii. review practices periodically to identify opportunities for improvement.

5. Responsibilities

5.1 The Chief Executive has overall responsibility for implementing this policy, supported by the staff team.

5.2 All trustees, employees, volunteers, and contractors are expected to support the principles of this policy through their activities and decision-making.

6. Review

6.1 This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Board of Trustees to ensure it remains appropriate to the organisation's activities and reflects current legislation and best practice.

7.4 Revision History

Version 1.0	Management Board		Approved version
Version 2.0	Chief Executive	May 2018	Draft amendments
Version 2.1	MBEC Chair & Chief Executive	March 2026	Corrections to previous draft (remove 3.2)
Version 2.2	Management Board	9 th March 2026	Adopted