

# **EMMS**International

Health for Today, Hope for Tomorrow

## **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

### **EMMS International**

**Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh, EH7 5QY, Scotland**

EMMS International is a registered Scottish Charity No. SC 032327  
and a Company Limited by Guarantee No. 224402

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# **EMMS International**

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### 1. Introduction

Climate change and environmental protection are two of the most urgent themes of our time. EMMS International recognises the threat of climate change to social justice and quality of life, and seeks to address these issues by following principles of environmental and climate protection. EMMS International seeks to minimise carbon emissions in our work in Scotland and overseas, encourage partners to reduce their carbon emissions, and ensure that all projects have minimal carbon footprint.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019 updated the 2009 Act and sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of the basket of six Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gases by 70% by 2030 and by 100% (net zero) by 2045. In October 2010 the Scottish Parliament passed legislation setting the first batch of annual targets, and in 2019 it increased the percentages by which emissions of these gases must be reduced each year.

EMMS International adheres to the following three principles:

- i. Commitment to respond meaningfully to the climate change challenge
- ii. Understanding our environmental impacts
- iii. Acting to minimise our impacts and improve environmental performance

### 2. Implementation

EMMS International's Environmental Policy is a statement of our commitment to minimise the impact of our activities on the environment.

### 3. Key Environmental Impacts

#### 3.1 Office

EMMS International rents a small open-plan office in Norton Park, Edinburgh. Toilet facilities, kitchen and meeting rooms are shared with other tenants. Main environmental impacts are:

- Electricity – but almost all from renewable sources in Scotland (97% renewable in 2020)
- Water consumption e.g. toilets
- Waste generation – e.g. food packaging due to eating away from home
- Office supplies and services

#### 3.2 Business Travel

Business travel is undertaken within the UK and further afield with visits to India, Malawi and Nepal. Sometimes some staff commute to and from work.

Primary environmental impacts are:

- Fossil fuel energy consumption

#### 3.3 Goods and Services Procurement

Each year we produce a number of printed publications.

Primary environmental impacts are caused by:

- Paper consumption
- Toxicity of inks and finishes
- Delivery to end-users

### 3.4 Supplies

A number of goods and services are procured to run operations.

Primary environmental impacts are caused by:

- Manufacture of electronic equipment, furniture and stationery
- Toxicity of cleaning products, furniture and equipment
- Sharepoint, website and email accounts held on the Cloud using electricity – note, though, that over 97% of electricity used in Scotland is from renewable sources.

### 3.5 Banking and investments

We only hold investments in companies which we believe are not harmful to the climate and/or the environment

We monitor whether the bank(s) with which we hold our accounts invest in companies which harm the climate and-or environment, and we may write to complain about this if they do.

### 3.6 Programmes

We fund projects overseas. Primary environmental impacts in these projects are caused by:

Fossil fuel energy consumption

Water consumption, waste generation or energy consumption of new or renovated buildings

## 4. Environmental Action Plan

Action	Means	Responsible people
Minimise paper use	Print only when necessary	All staff and trustees
Buy goods and services from suppliers with strong environmental credentials (e.g. FSC paper).	Request details from suppliers.	All staff
Animal foods (meat & dairy) contribute at least 14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions (FAO) and twice as much as plant-based foods <sup>1</sup>	Spend no EMMS funds on animal products.	All staff and trustees
Use train and bus as much as possible for EMMS work	Since more expensive than flying, book in advance for best rates.	All staff and trustees
Support cycling, use of public transport and remote-working	Promote knowledge of public transport and remote-working in compliance with Health & Safety	All staff and trustees
Use printers with strong environmental credentials	Ensure use of FSC paper and non-toxic ink and finishes.	Director of Fundraising
Assess demand for hard copy, to avoid overprinting	Identify who we want to give hard copy to when determining print run	Director of Fundraising
Make publications available electronically.	Upload publications to the website as soon as they are available.	Director of Fundraising
Review key partners' quarterly travel plans for shared or public transport; fund solarisation of partners' premises.	Require quarterly travel plans before releasing quarterly funds to partners. Seek donors interested in solarising EMMS partners.	Directors of Programmes and Fundraising
Ensure any building that we fund adheres to national environmental standards.	Partners comply.	Director of Programmes

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-021-00358-x>