

EMMSInternational

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

Policy Owner	CEO
Policy Date	Last updated March 2025
Next Policy Review Date	March 2026

EMMS International

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 set targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of the basket of six Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gases by 70% by 2030 (abandoned in 2024) and by 100% (net zero) by 2045 (awaiting legislation for new interim target). In October 2010 the Scottish Parliament had 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; following non-achievement of these targets, they were dropped in 2024 and we await new ones.

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 largely from renewable sources (Scotland's production is 97% renewable)
- Water consumption, e.g. toilets
- Waste generation, e.g. food packaging due to eating away from home
- Office supplies and services
- Toxicity of cleaning products, furniture and equipment
- Posting of full or partial signed audited accounts to trusts and foundations

3.2 Business Travel

Business travel is undertaken within the UK and further afield with visits to India, Malawi, Nepal, Rwanda and Zambia. 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
- Catering supplies such as disposable cutlery, cups and plates
- Community fundraisers and Challenge events using transport and plastic, e.g. bottles
- SharePoint, website and email accounts held on the Cloud using electricity – while much Scottish electricity is generated from renewable sources, this is not the case in all countries where the Cloud uses computers.

3.5 Banking, investments and donations

- We do not accept donations from organisations involved in fossil fuels or harm of the environment.
- We only hold investments in companies which we believe are not harmful to the climate and/or the environment.
- We monitor whether the banks with which we hold 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, e.g. through car and plane travel
- Water consumption, waste generation or energy use of new or renovated buildings
- Use of fossil fuel grid electricity and back-up diesel generators.

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 > 14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions (FAO) and twice as much as plant-based. ¹	Minimise EMMS funds spent on animal products.	All staff and trustees
Use train, bus and cycling as much as reasonably feasible for EMMS work	Book in advance for best rates; only fly on EMMS business if the work 1) must be done in-person, 2) must be done by the EMMS person (not by someone closer to the site), and 3) flying is the <i>only</i> (not necessarily the most) cost-effective mode of travel. Prolong trips to achieve more rather than make return trips.	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

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

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	Director of Fundraising
Make publications available electronically.	Upload publications to EMMS or other website as soon as they are available.	Director of Fundraising
Fund solarisation of partners' premises.	Seek donors interested in solarising EMMS partners.	Directors of Programmes & Fundraising
Ensure buildings that we fund adhere to national environmental standards.	Partners comply.	Director of Programmes